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Lucas

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- (54) **PORTABLE SAWMILL**
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CPC **B27B 5/36** (2013.01); **B23D 47/02** (2013.01); **B23D 47/12** (2013.01); **B27B 5/207** (2013.01);
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- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
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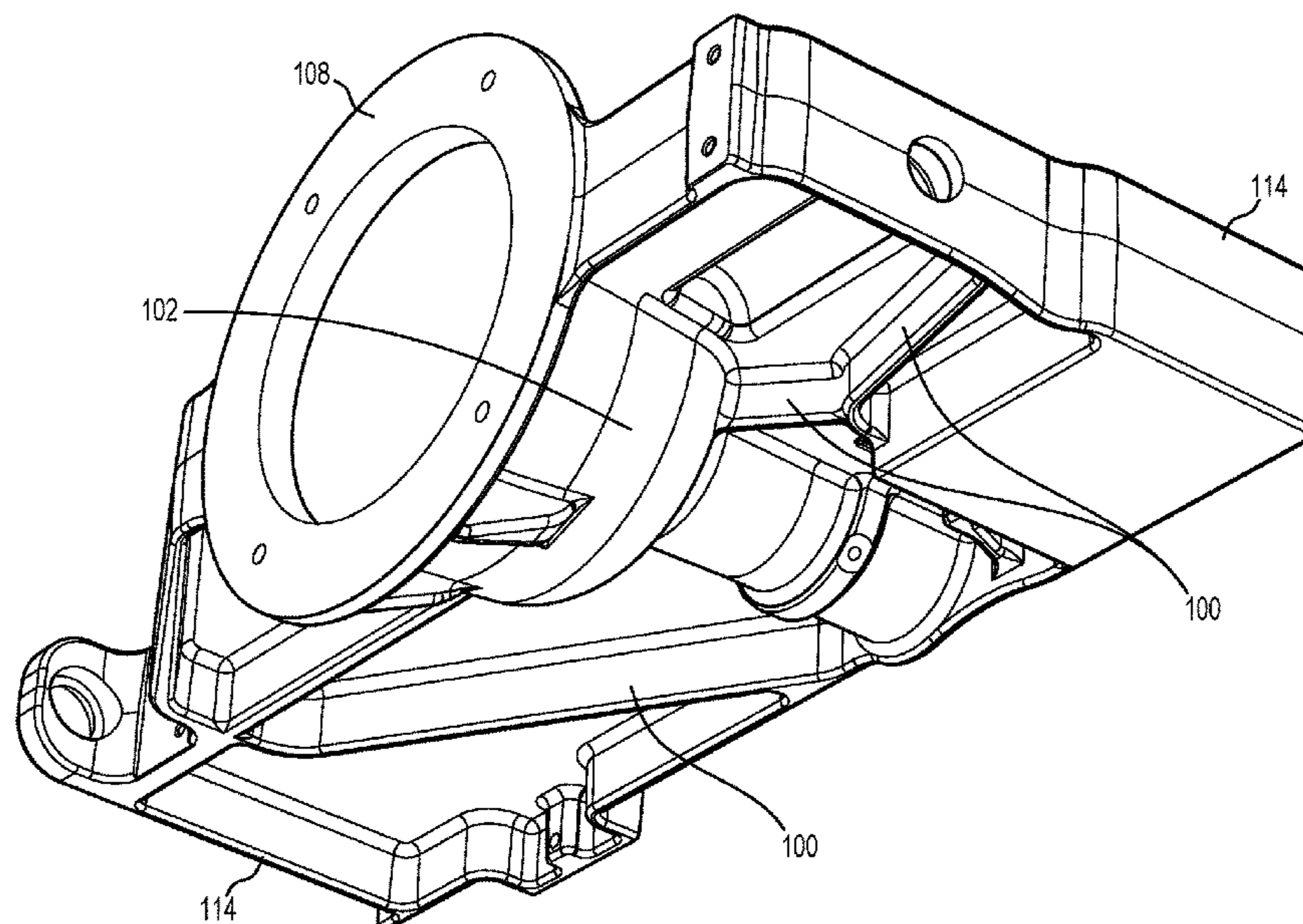
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- Primary Examiner* — Phong H Nguyen
- (74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Conley Rose, P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A sawmill includes a four-stroke internal combustion engine having an output shaft for driving a sawblade. The output shaft has a longitudinal axis. The engine is mounted on the sawmill for rotation between a first operative position with the longitudinal axis of the output shaft extending at a first angle, and a second operative position with the longitudinal axis of the output shaft extending at a second angle transversely to the first angle. The engine has fuel injection to facilitate operation in the first and second operative positions and a lubrication system incorporating a wet sump. An oil pick up for the lubrication system is configured to pick up oil from the wet sump at both the first and second operative positions.

25 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets



- (51) **Int. Cl.**
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- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
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- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
- CPC *B27B 5/36*; *B27B 5/207*; *B27B 5/063*; *B27B 5/065*; *B27B 5/30*; *B27B 7/00*; *B27B 7/02*; *B27B 9/00*; *B27B 9/04*; *B23D 47/02*; *B23D 47/12*; *F01M 9/06*
- USPC 144/376, 286.1
- See application file for complete search history.

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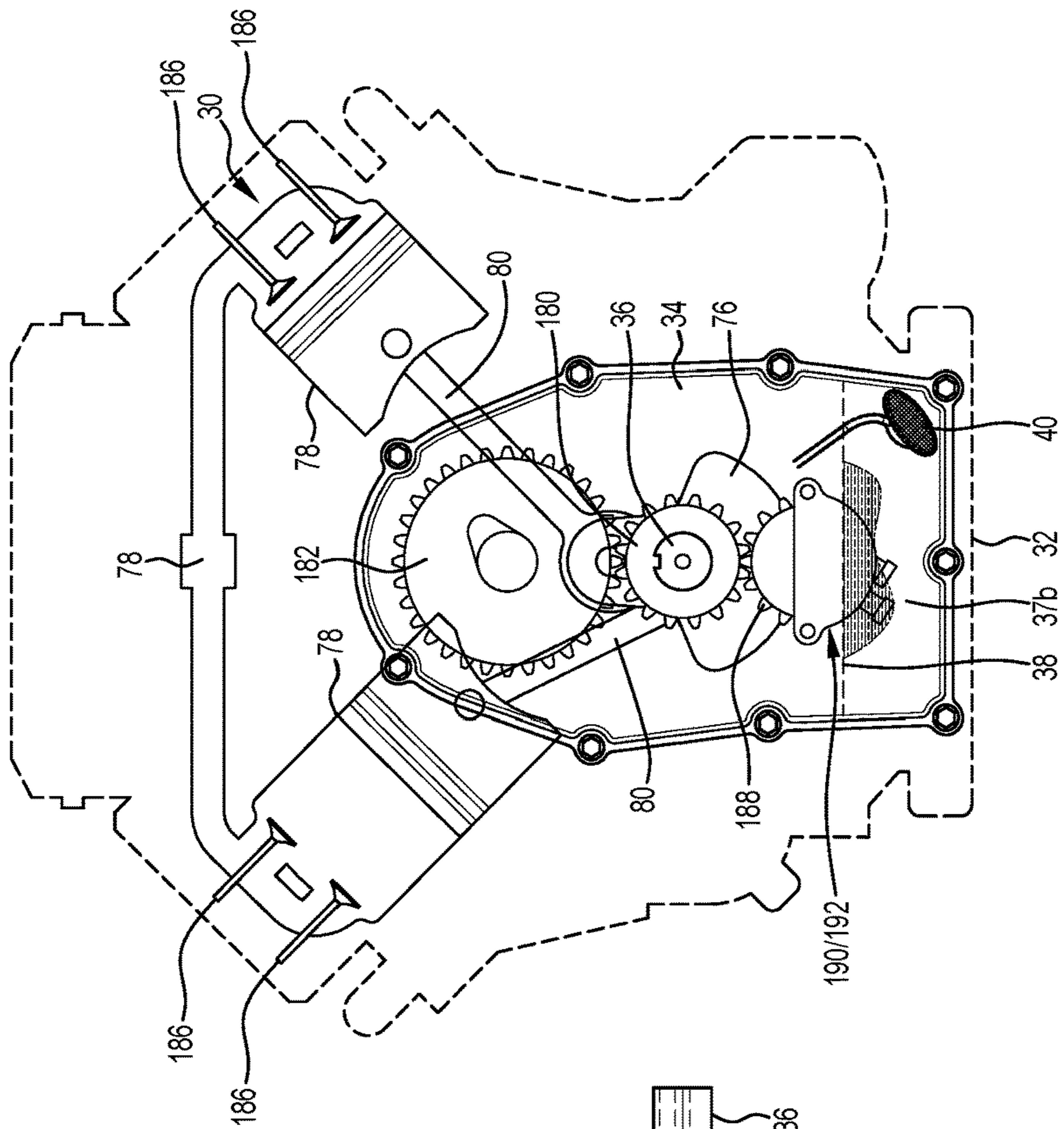


Figure 2

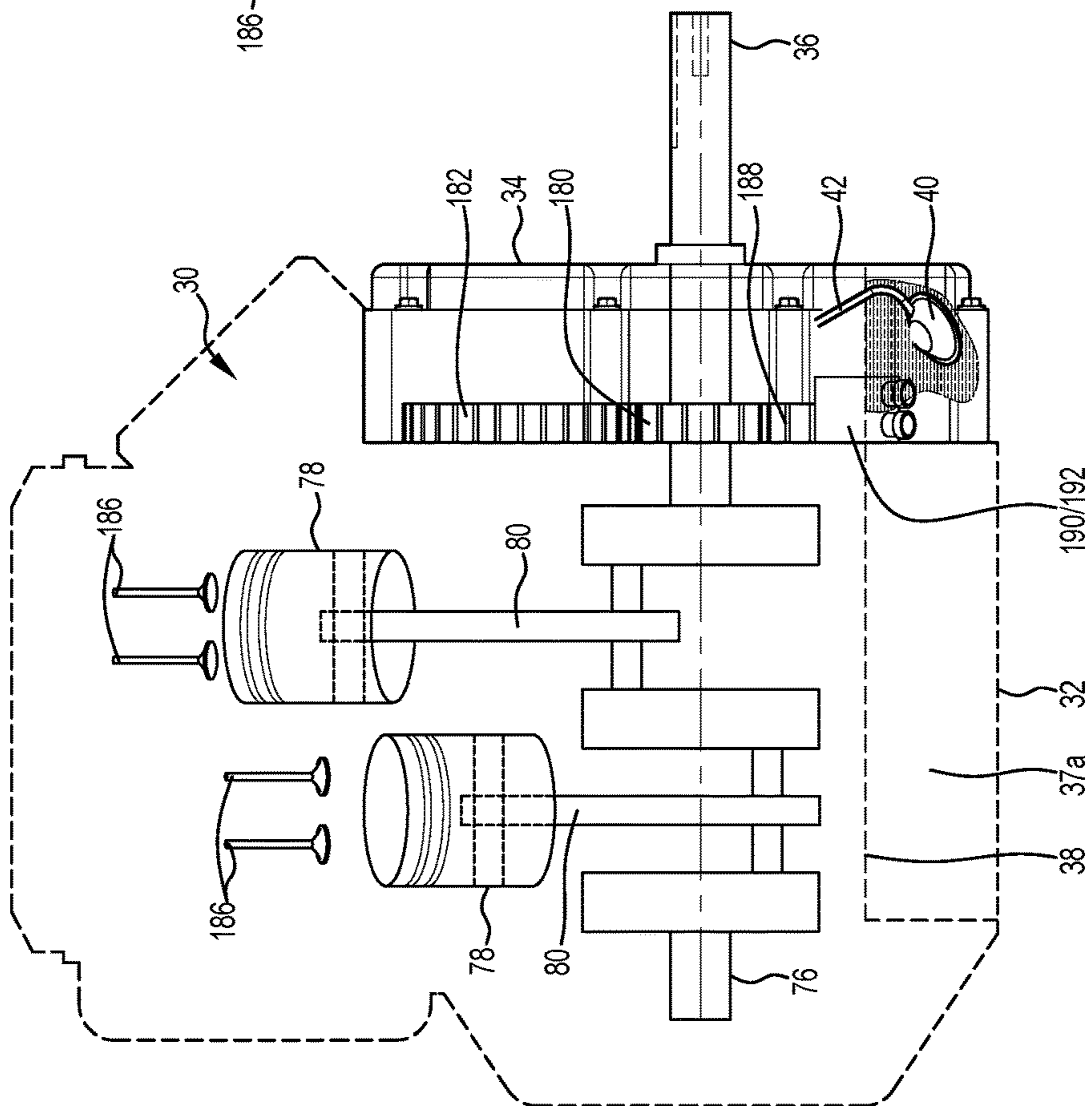


Figure 1

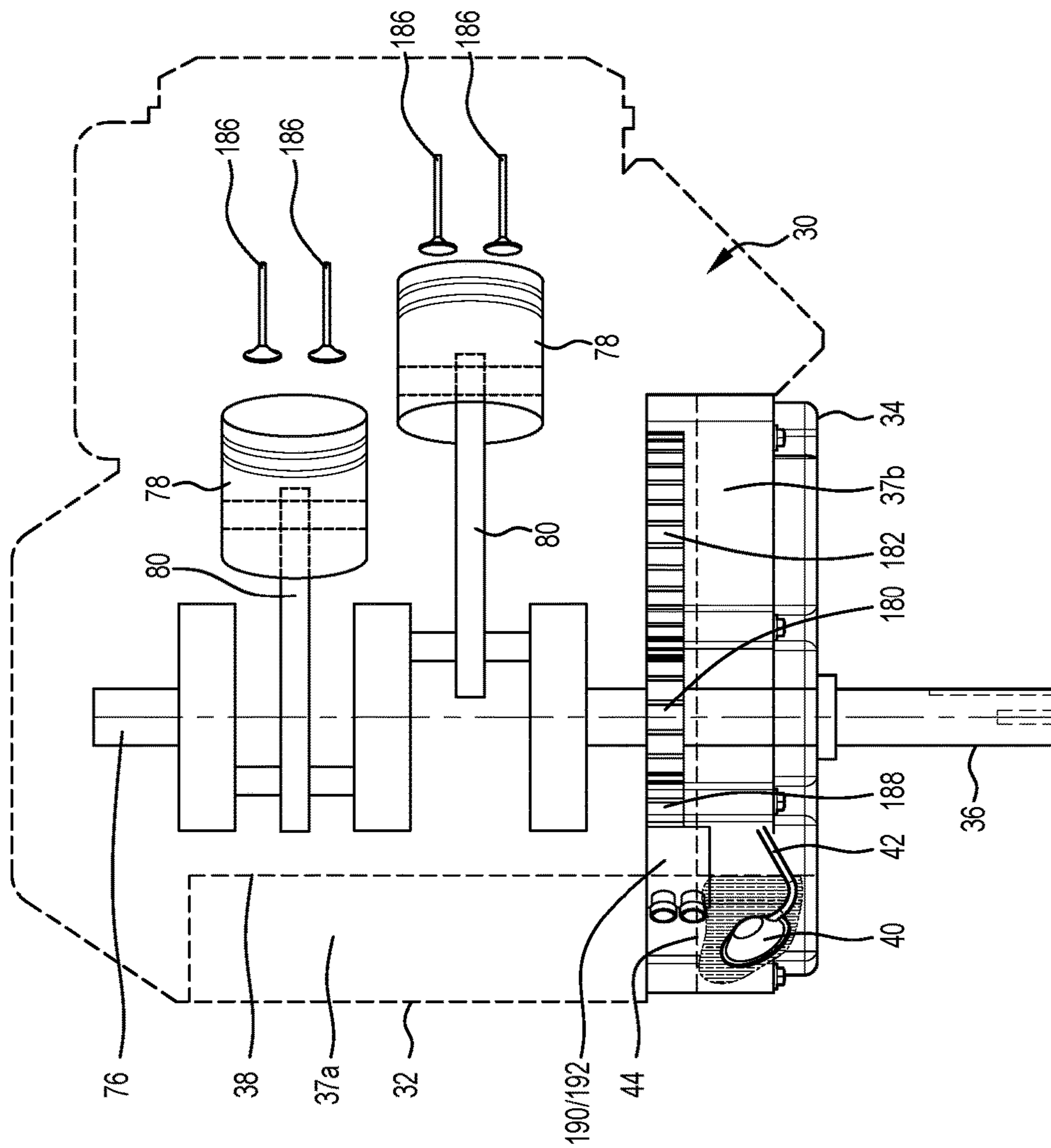


Figure 3

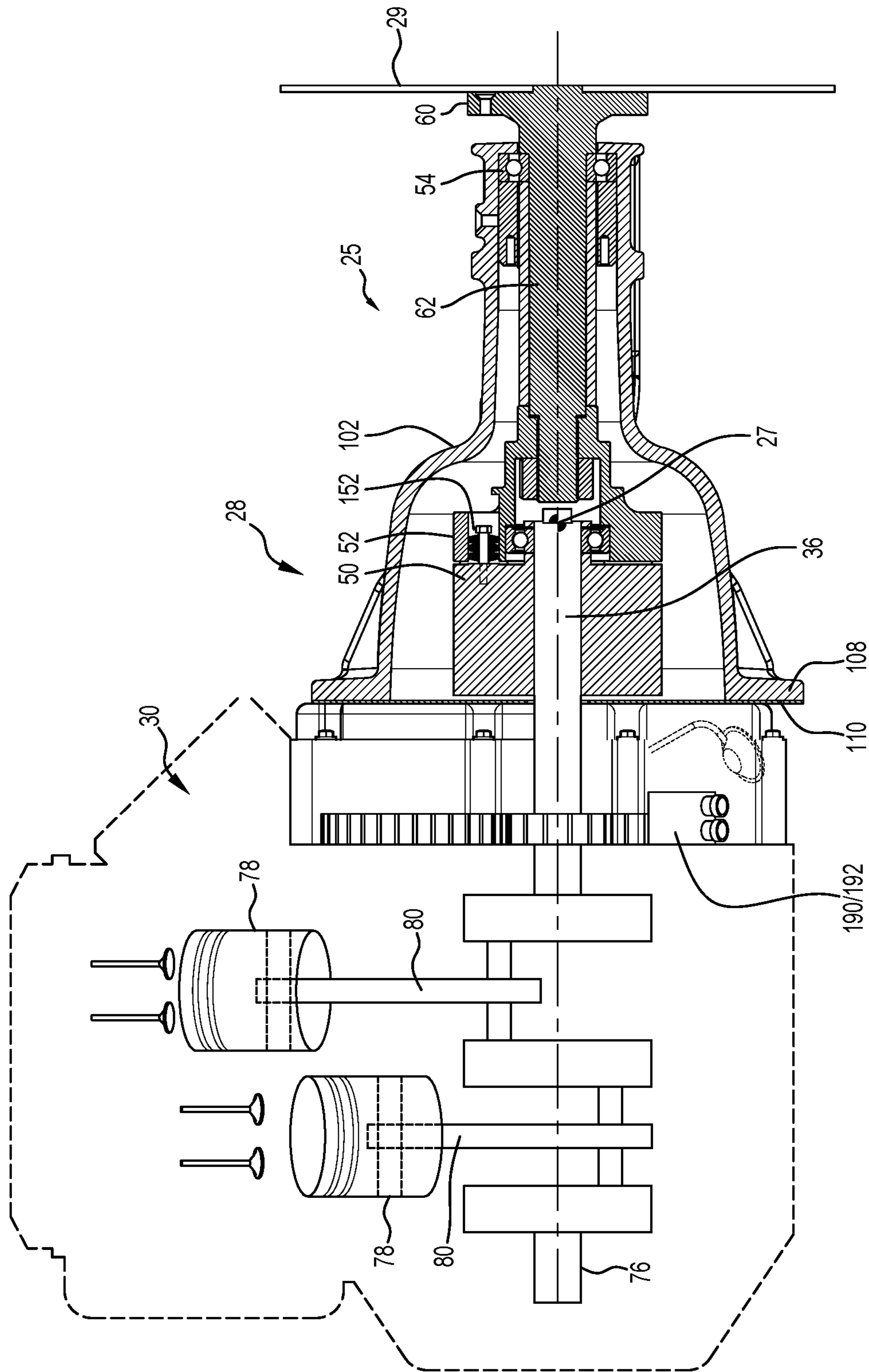


Figure 4A

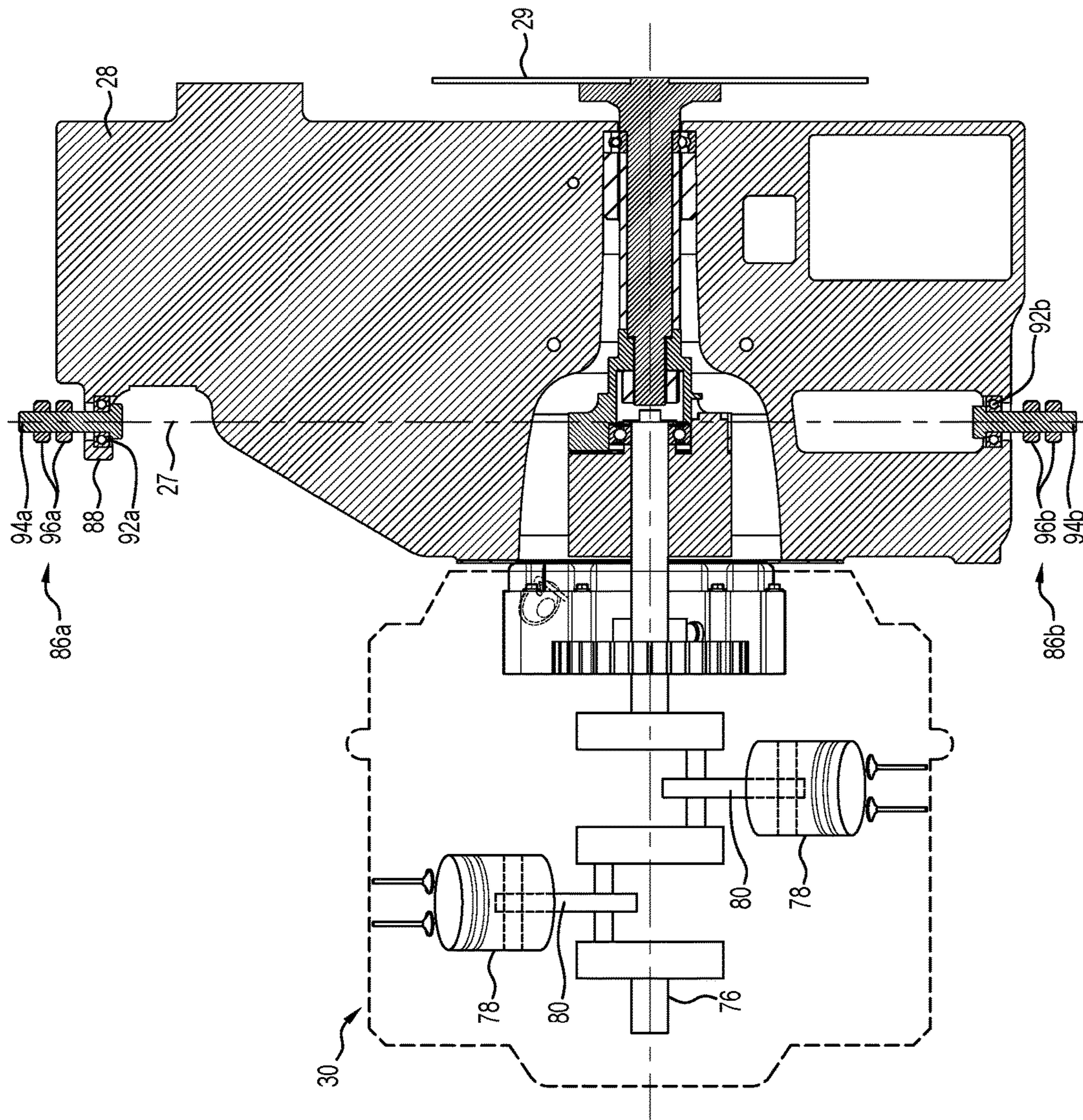


Figure 4B

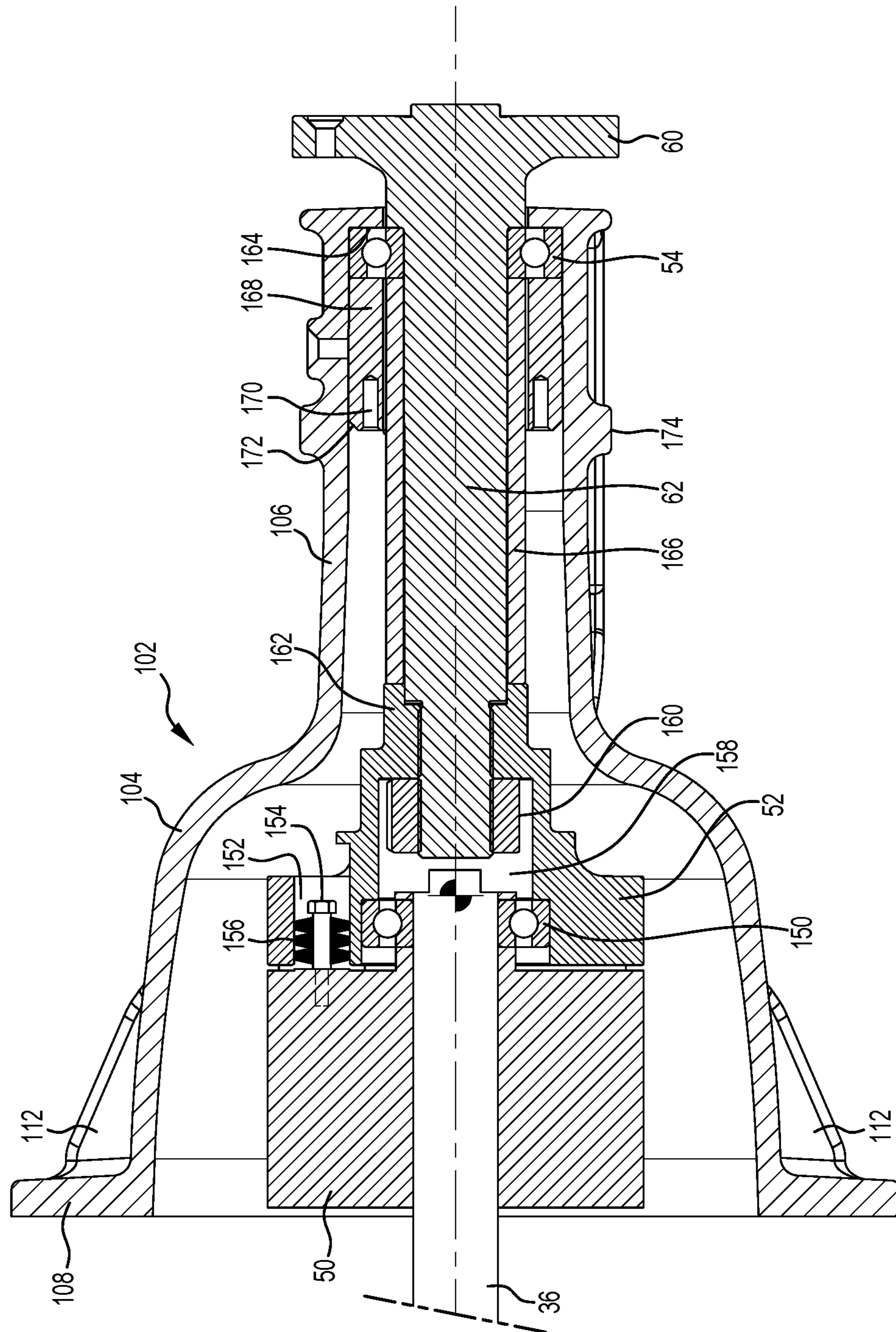


Figure 4C

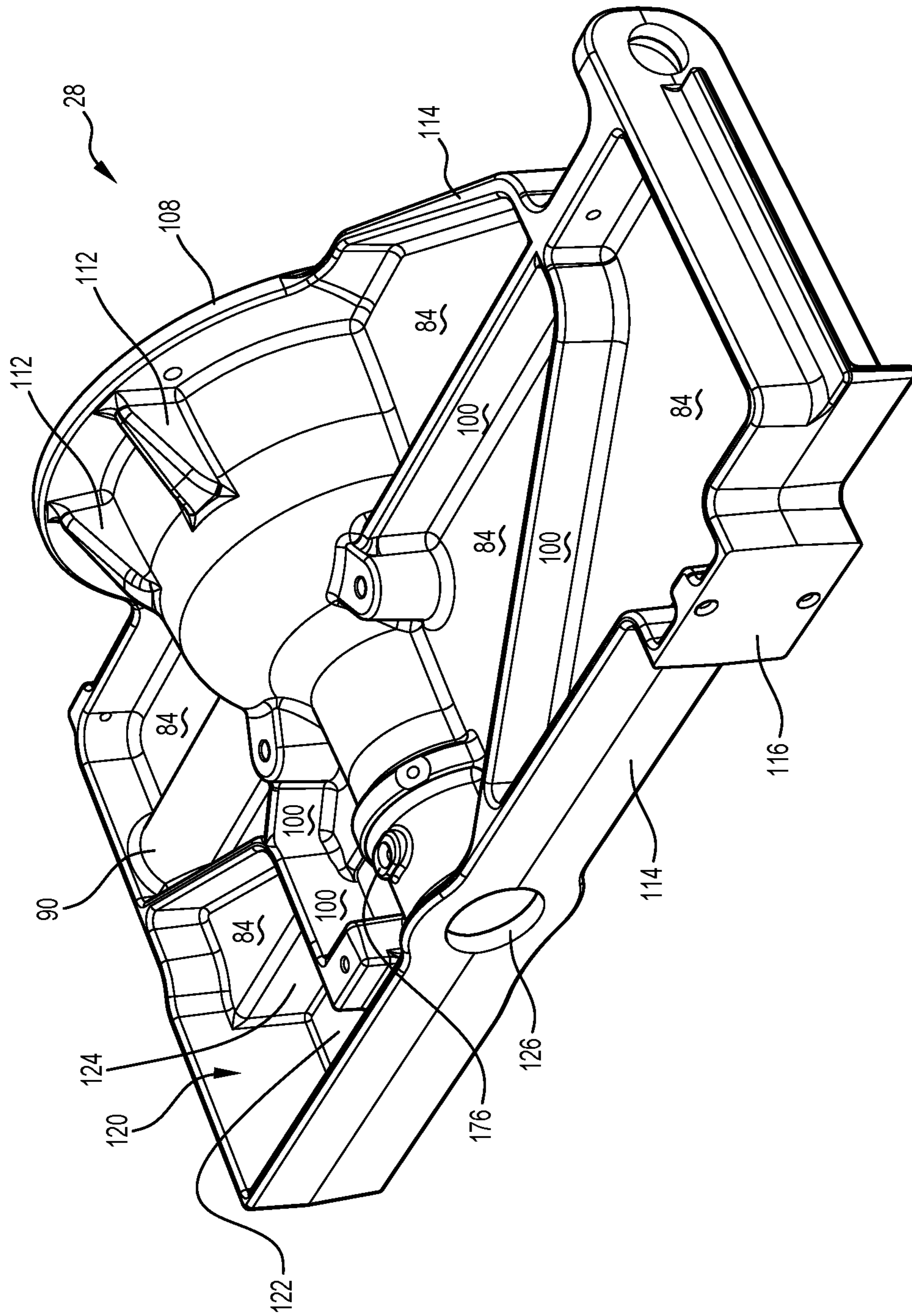


Figure 4D

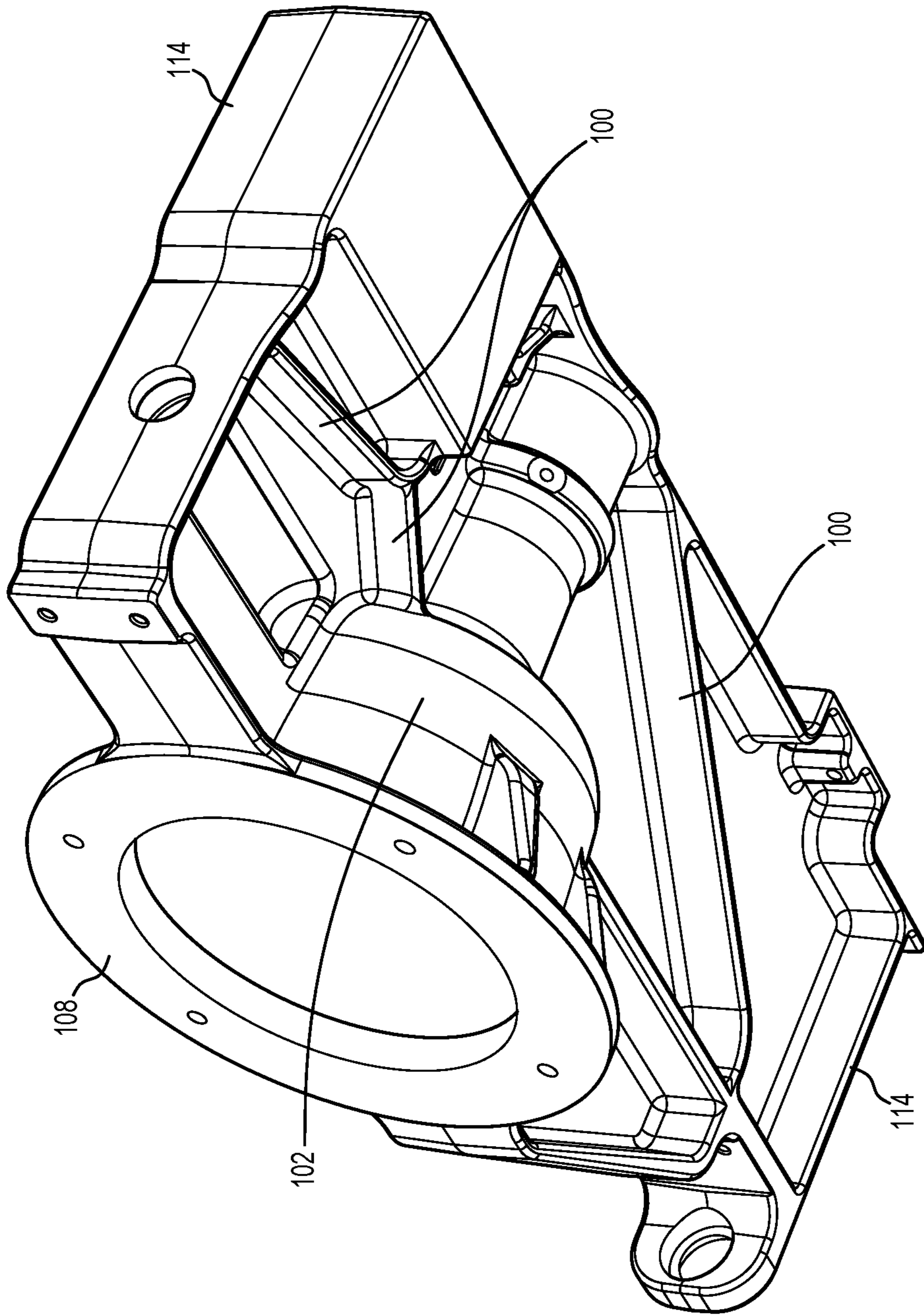


Figure 4E

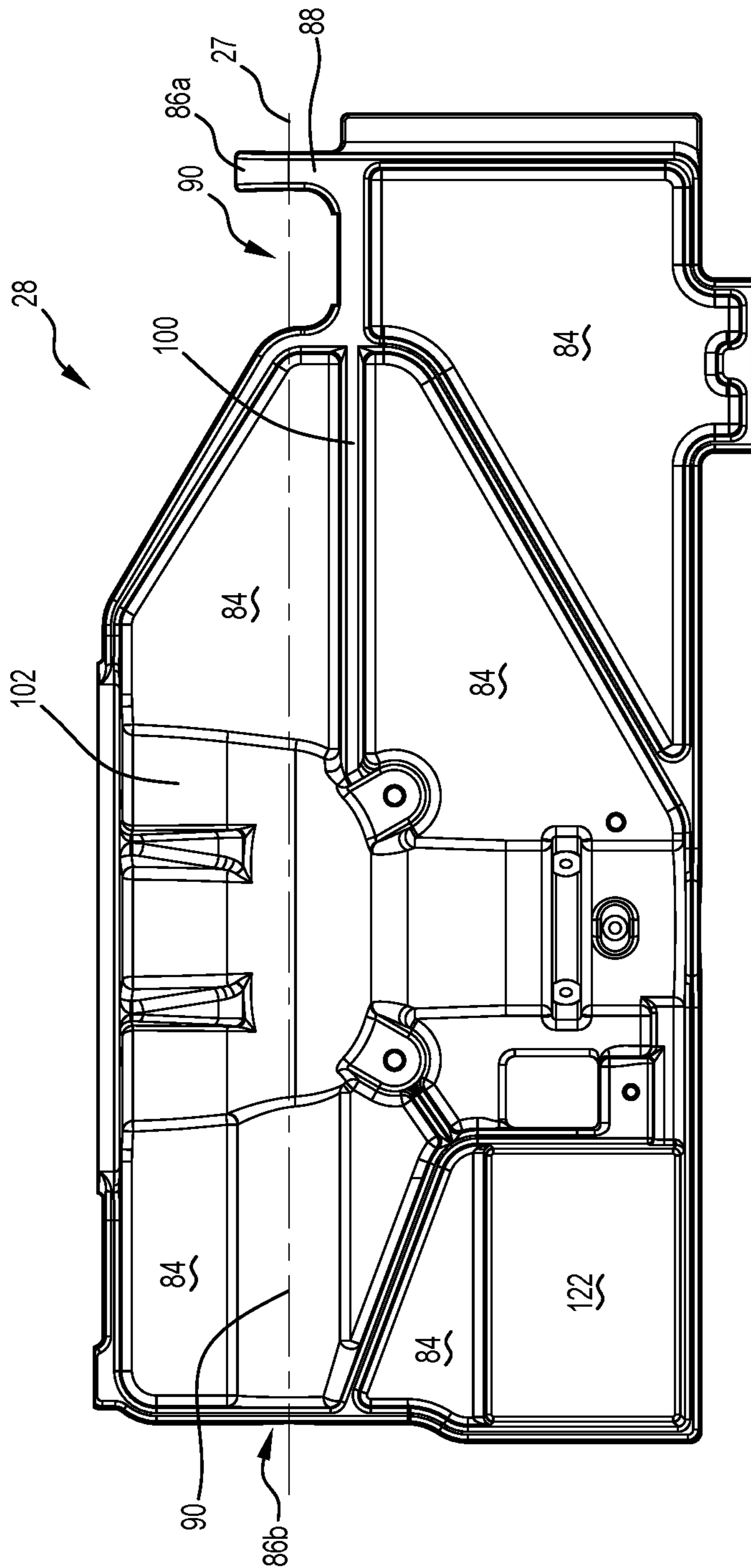


Figure 4F

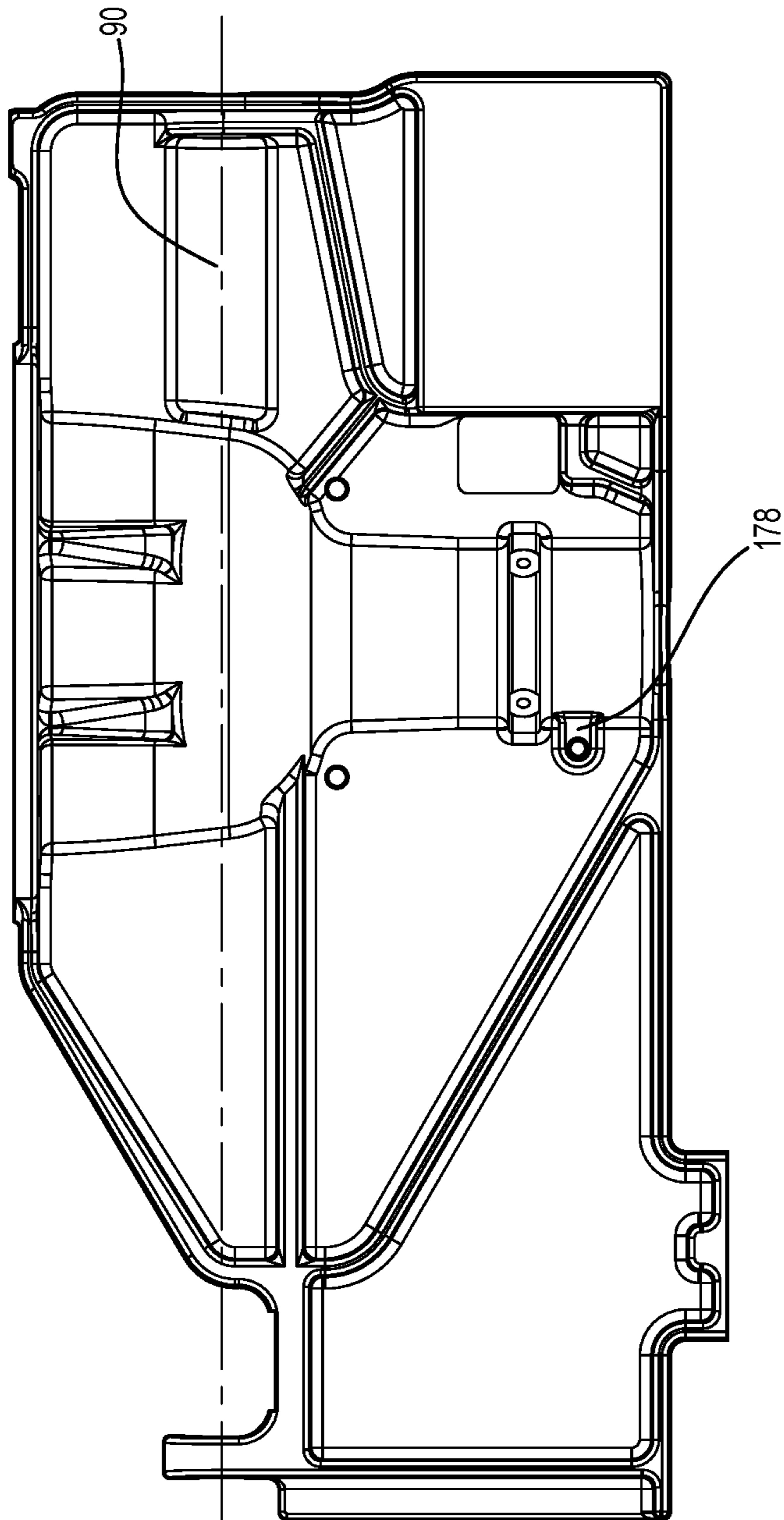


Figure 4G

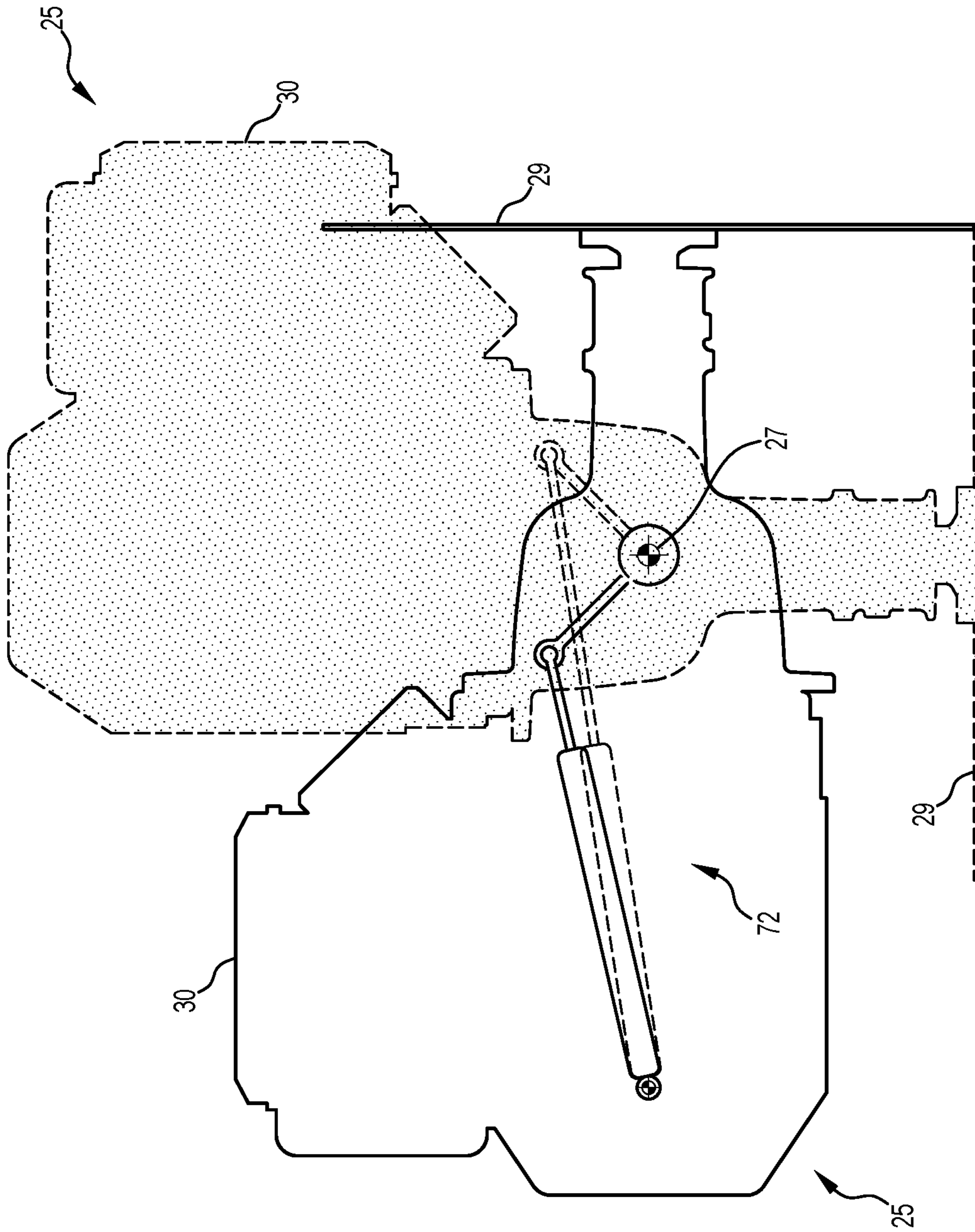


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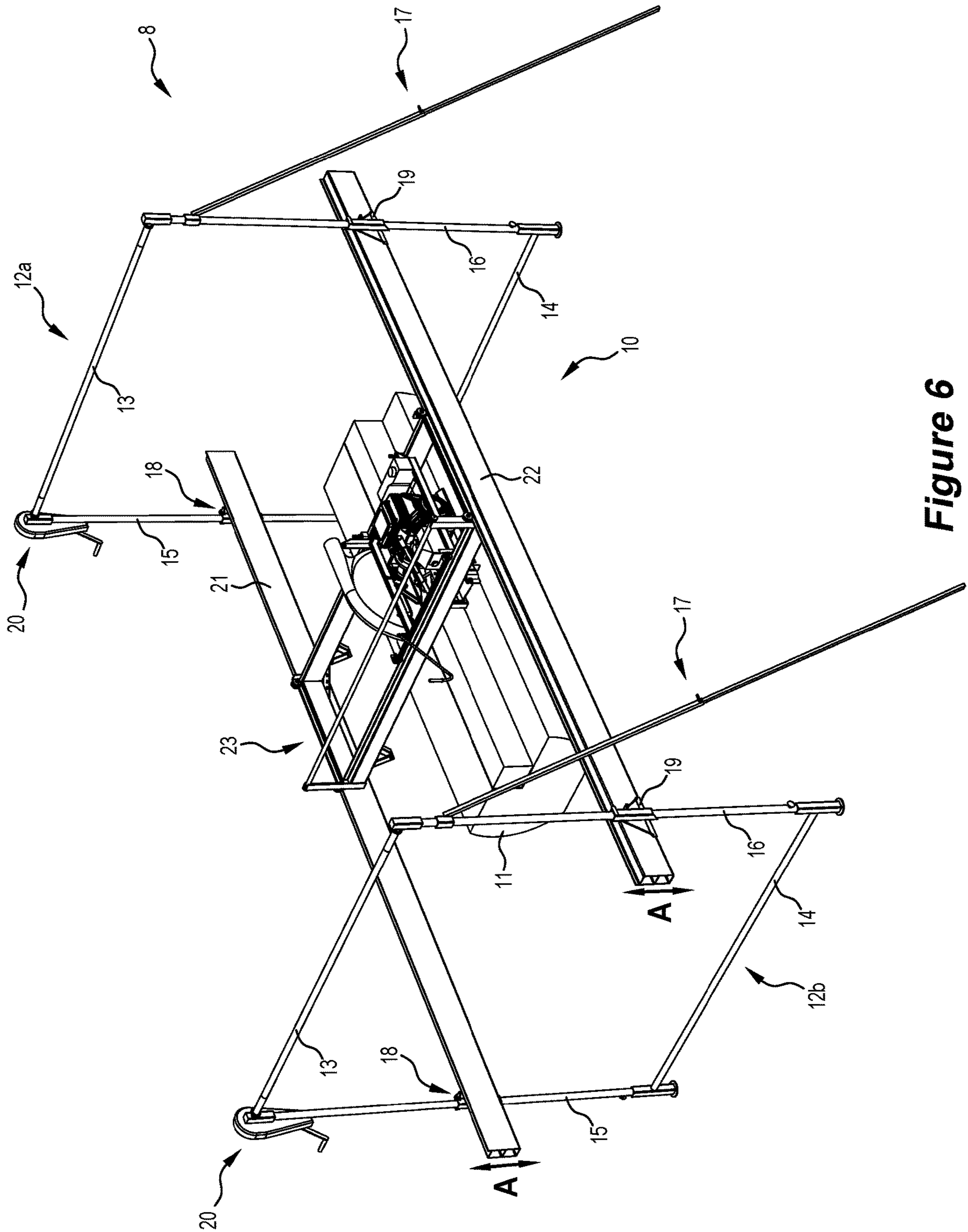


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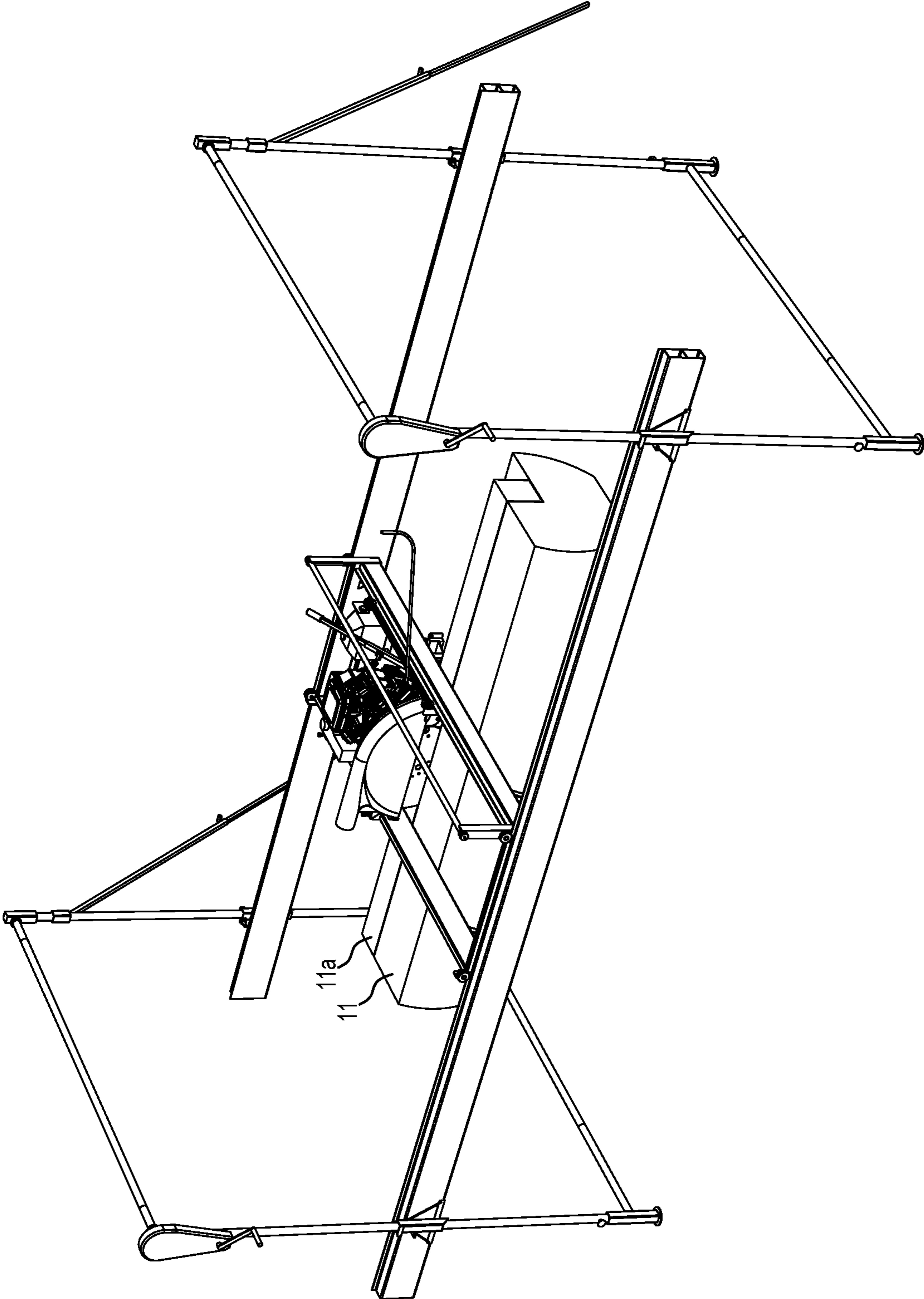


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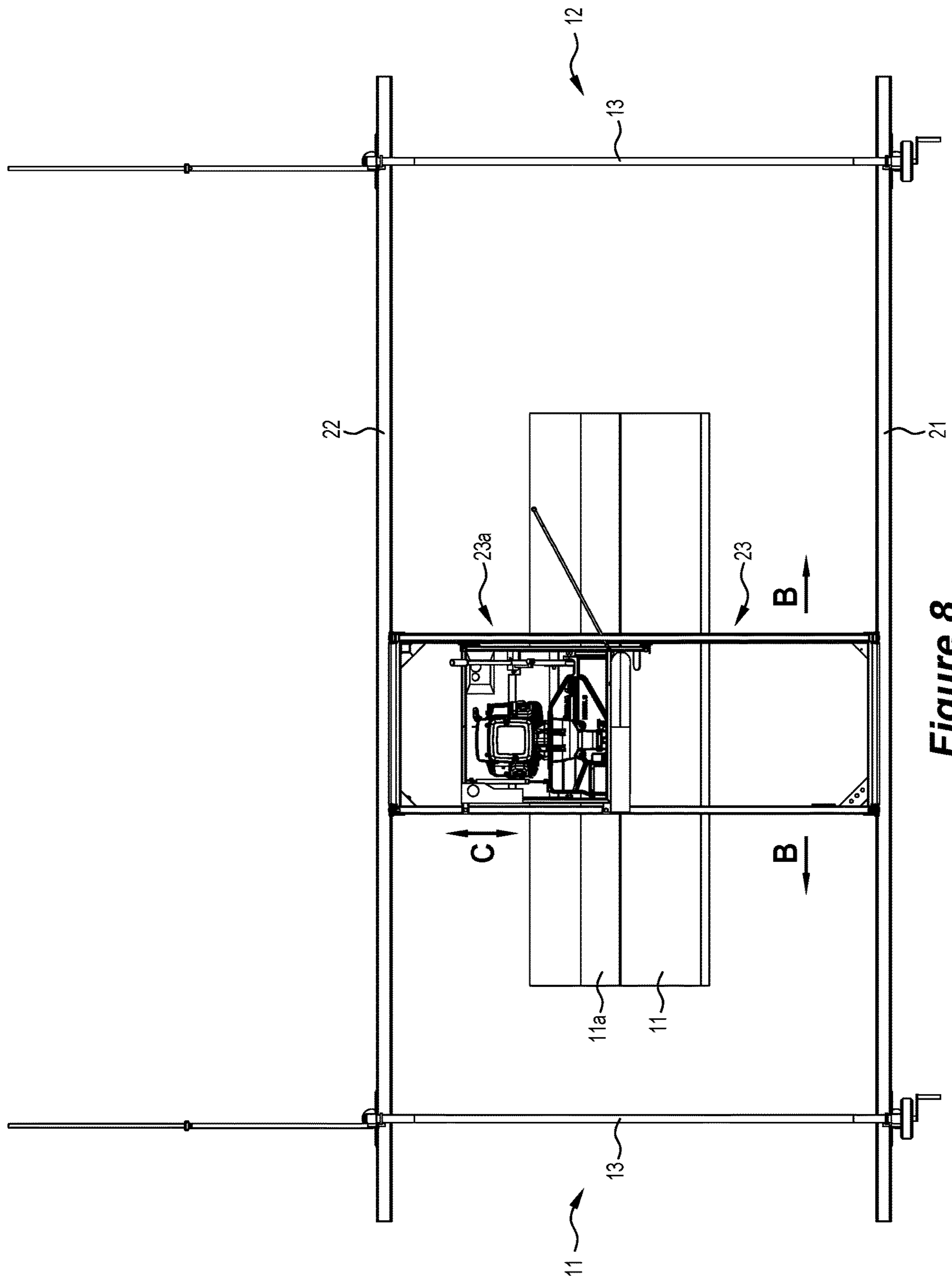


Figure 8

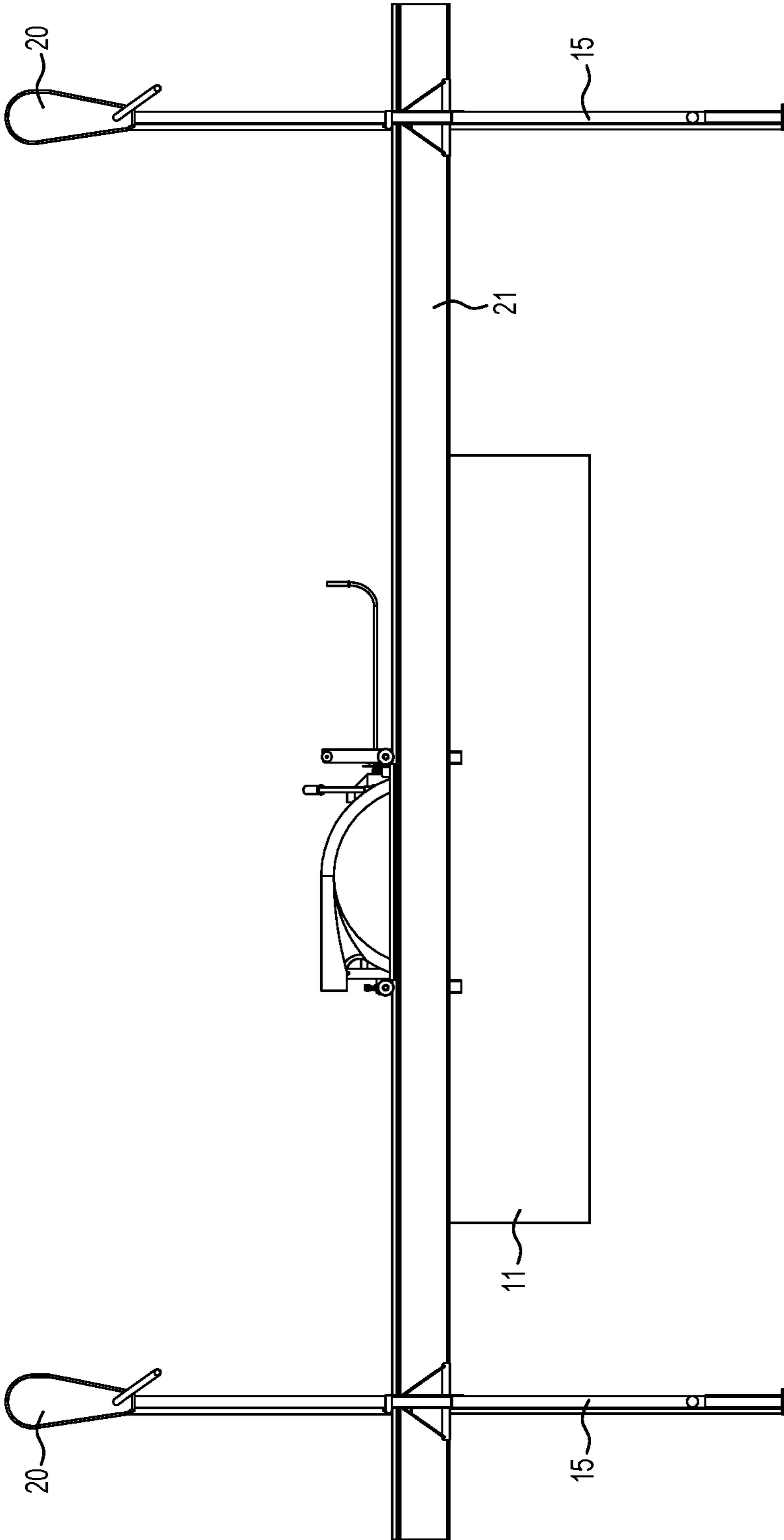


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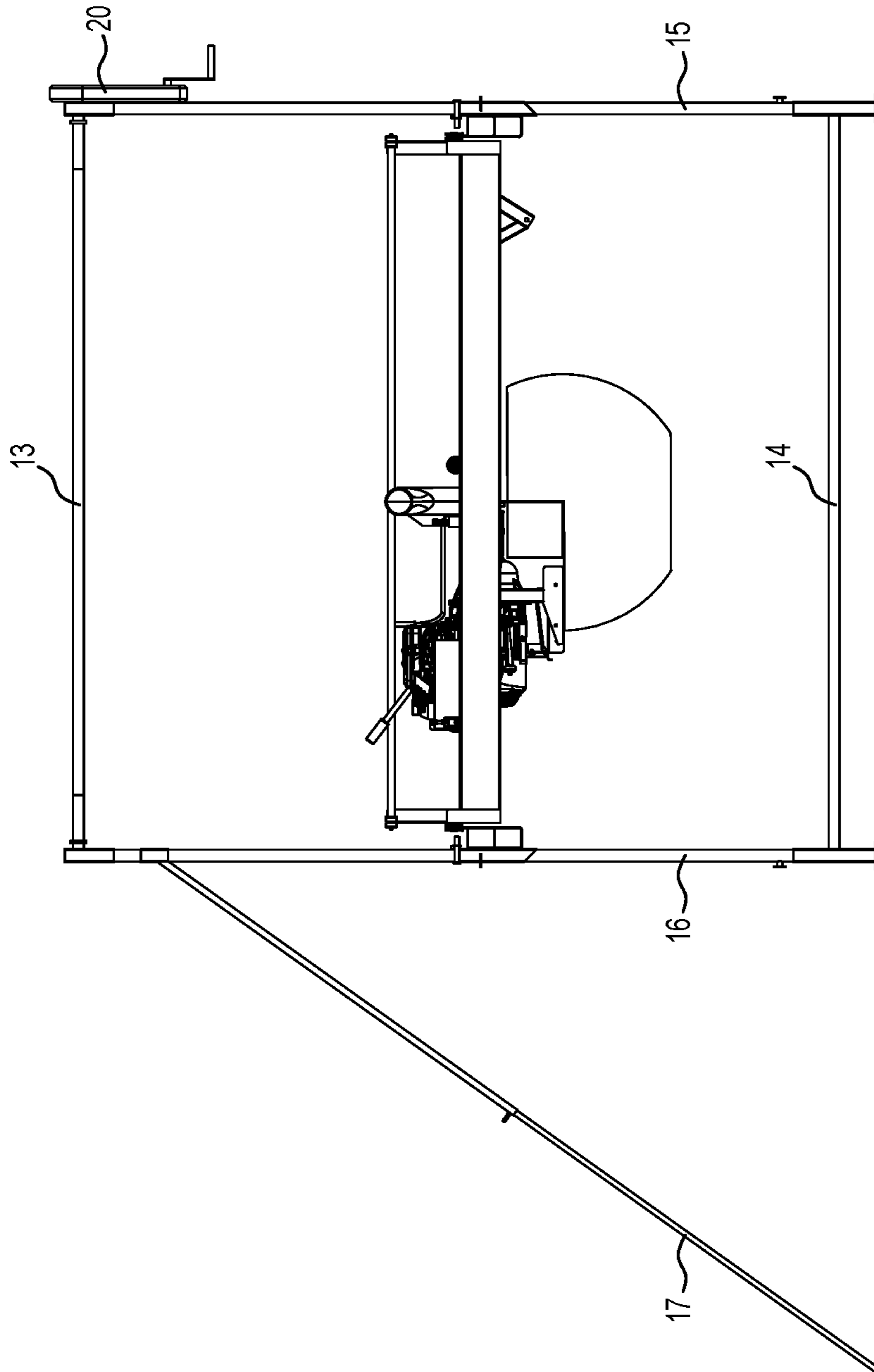


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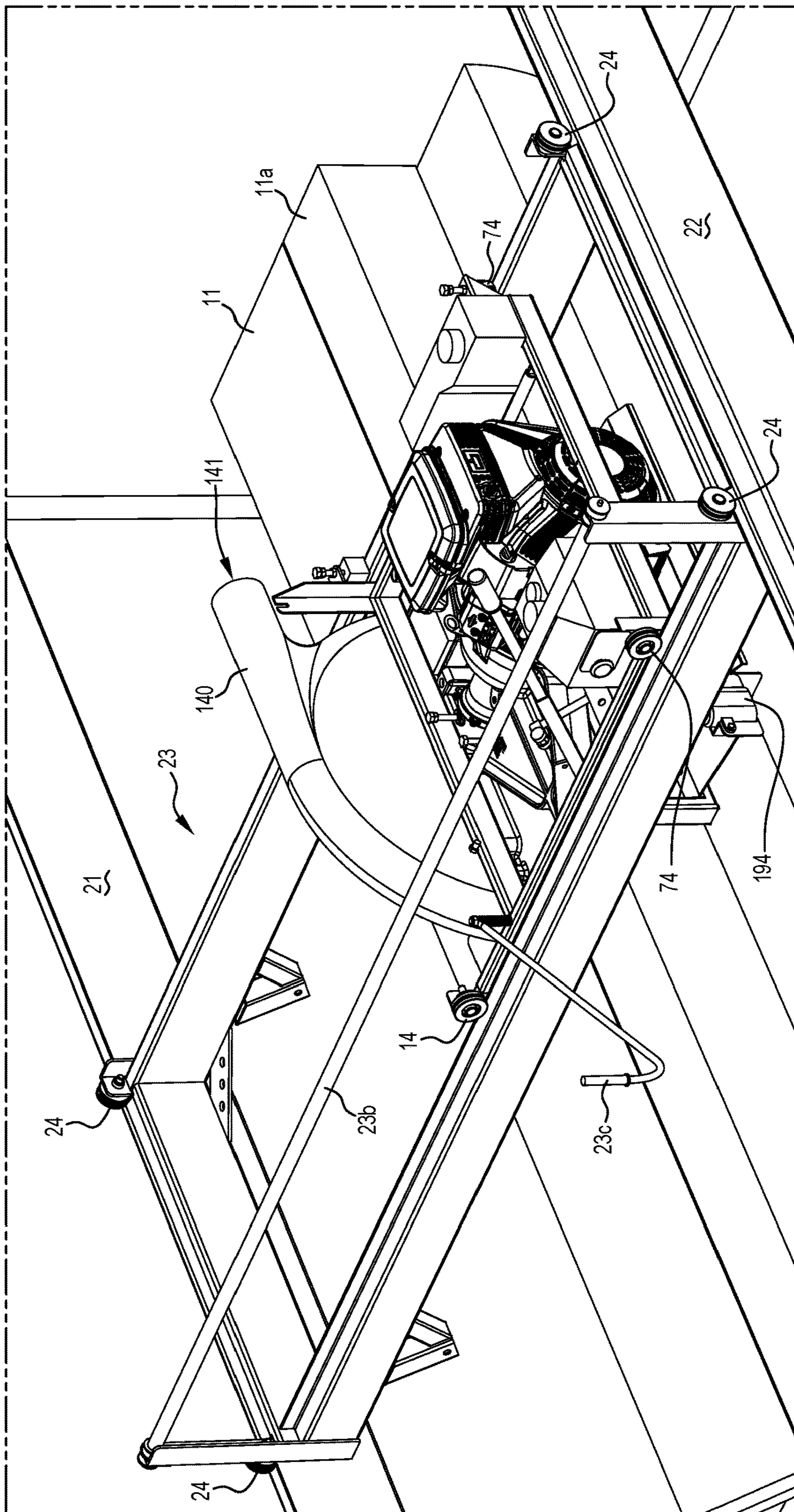


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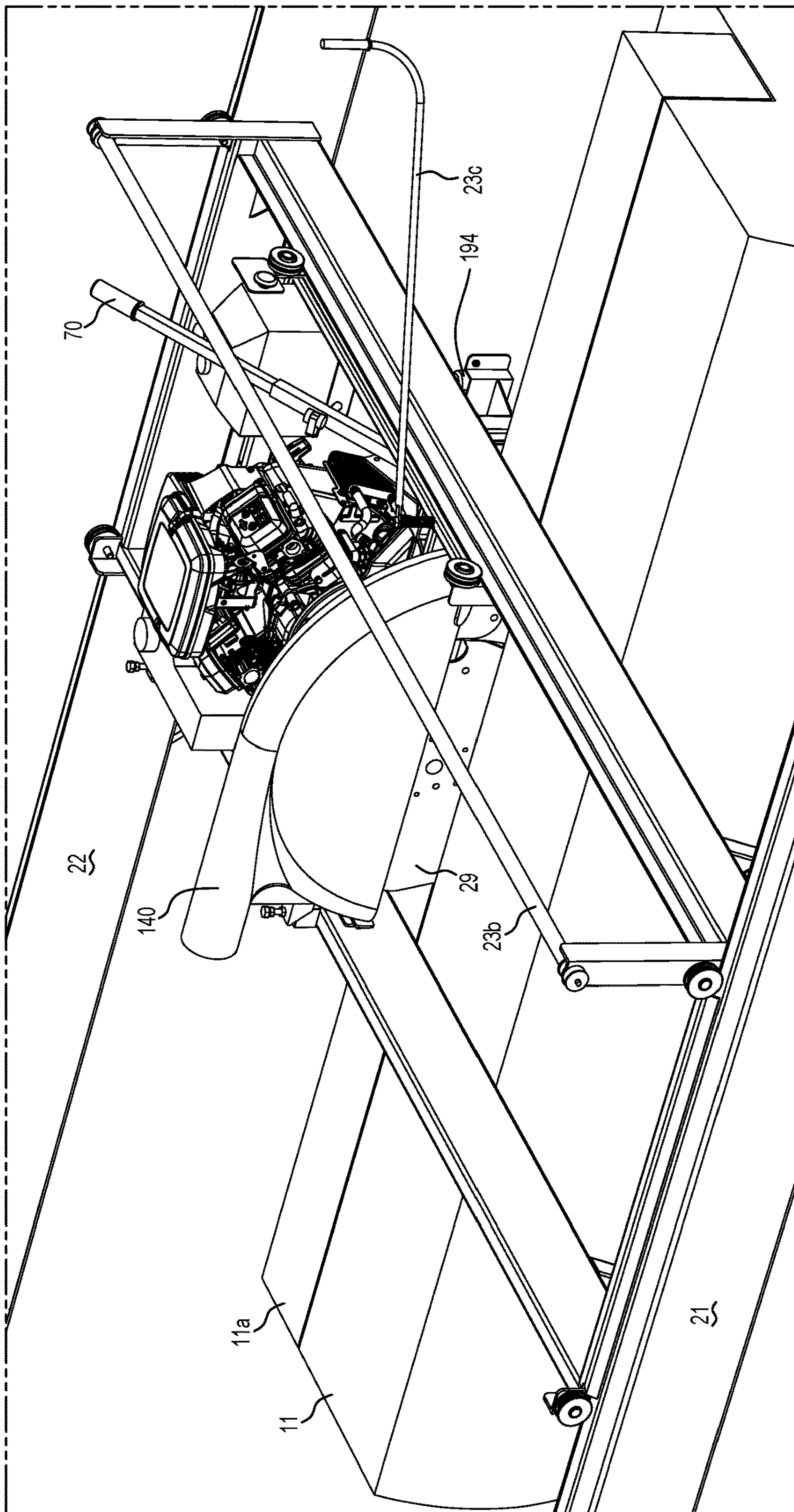


Figure 12

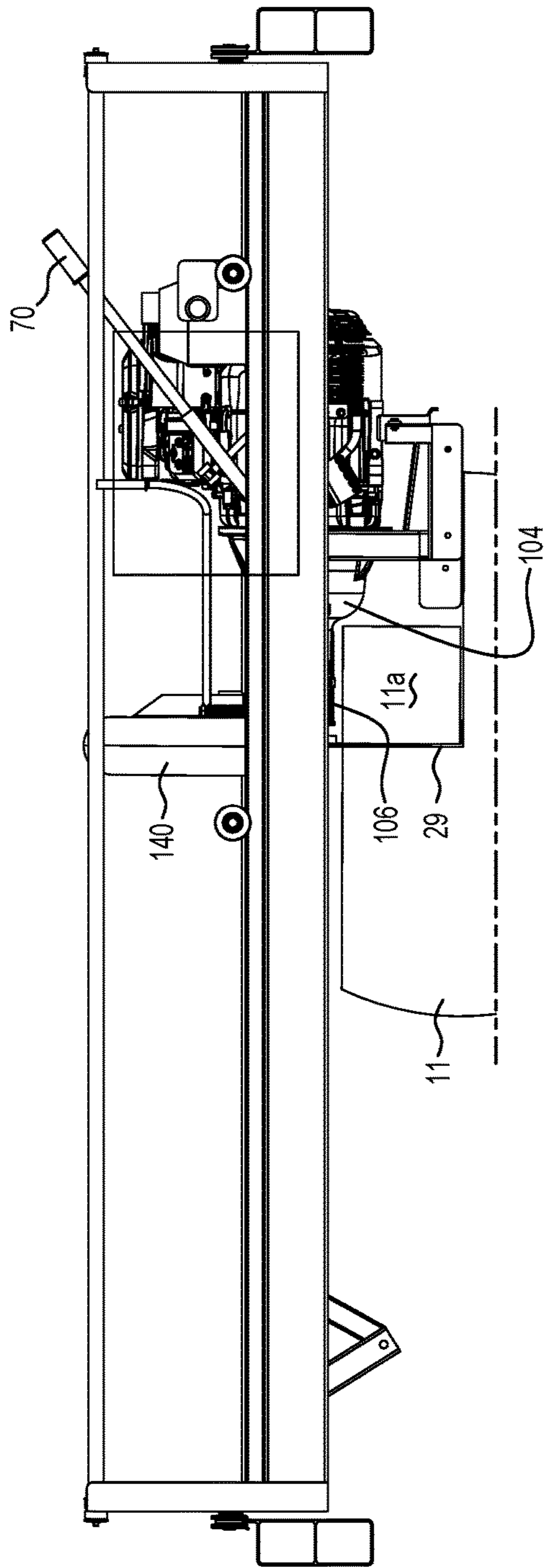


Figure 13a

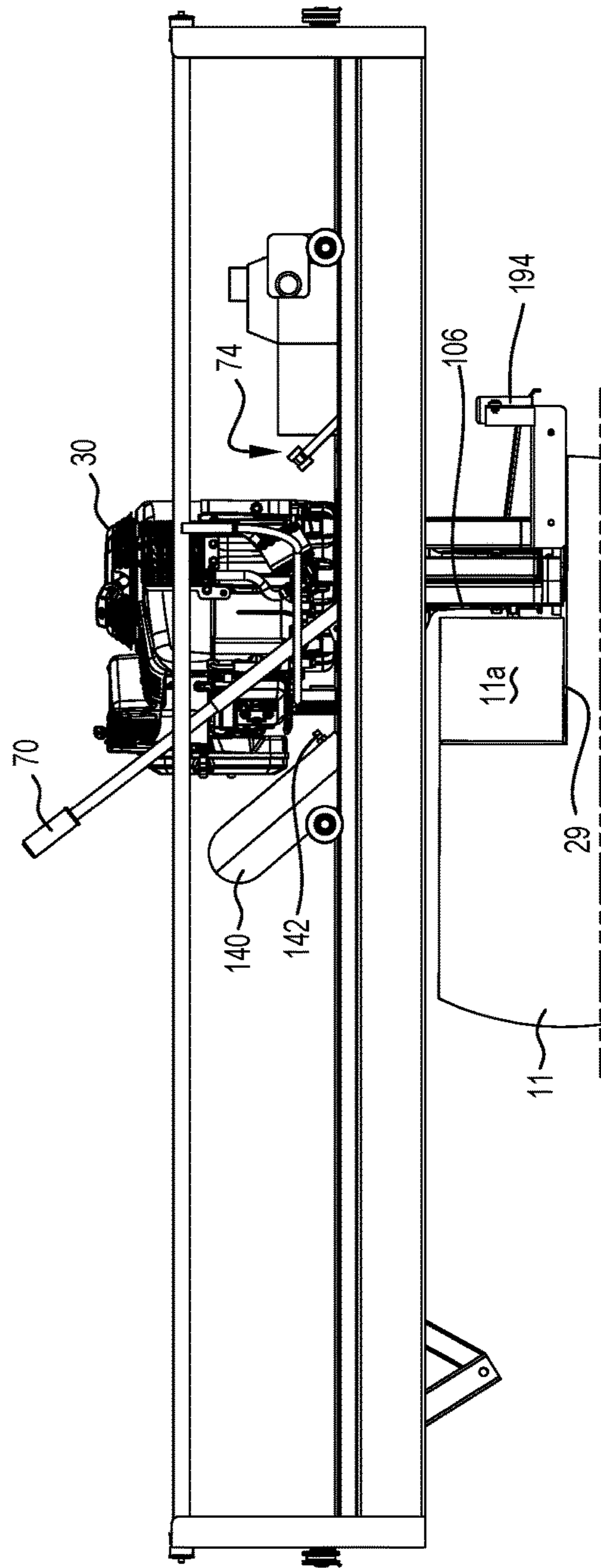


Figure 13b

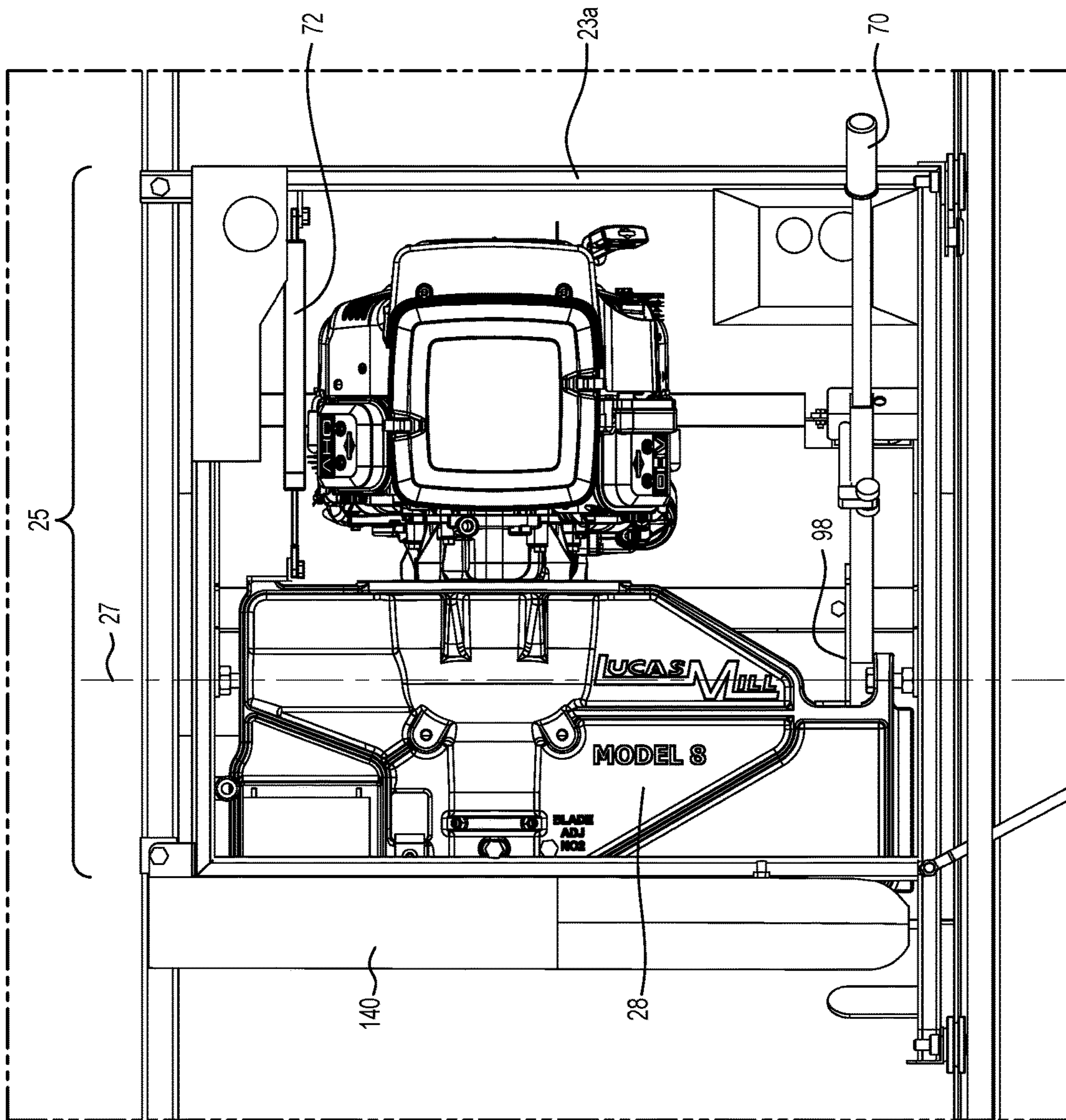


Figure 14

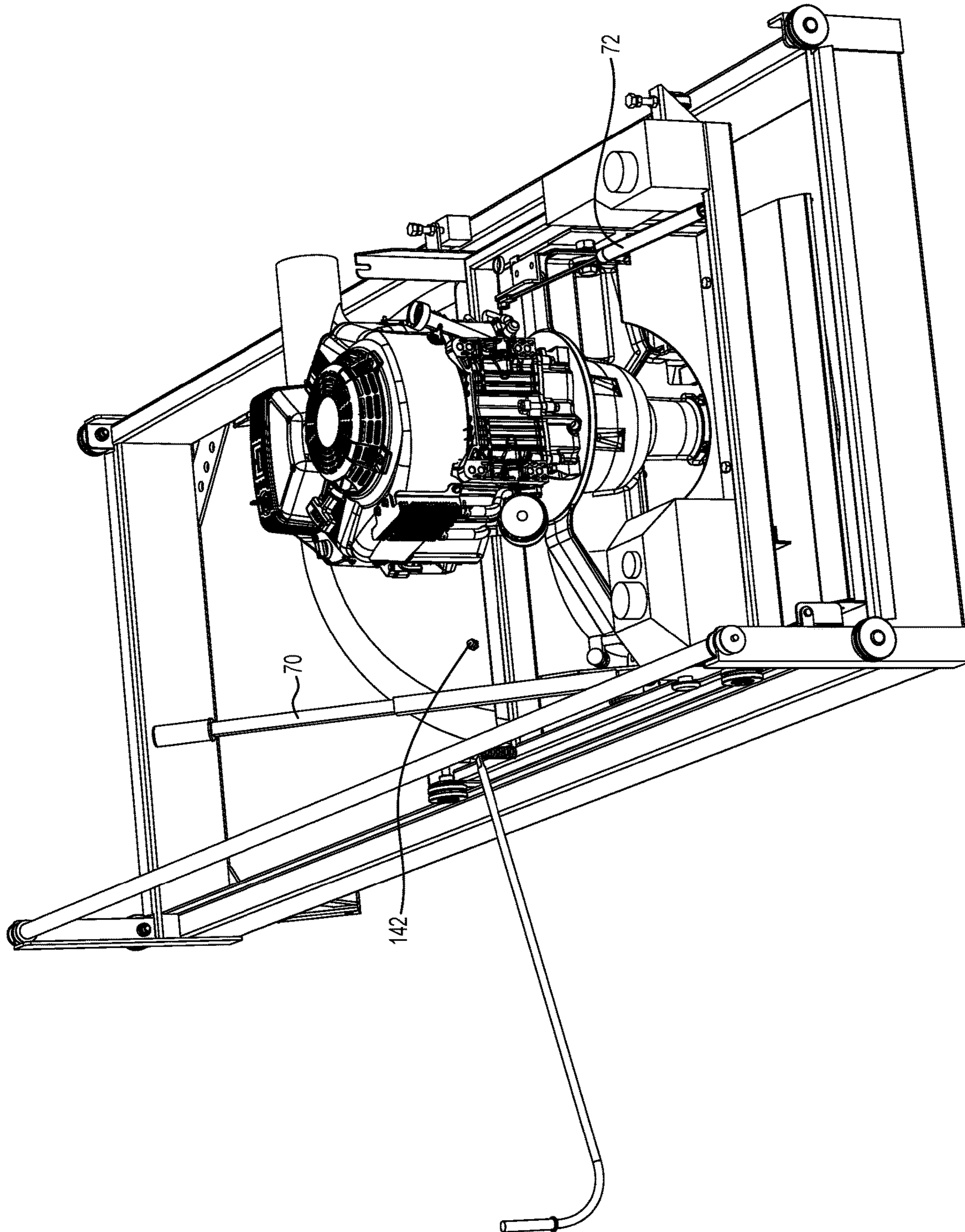


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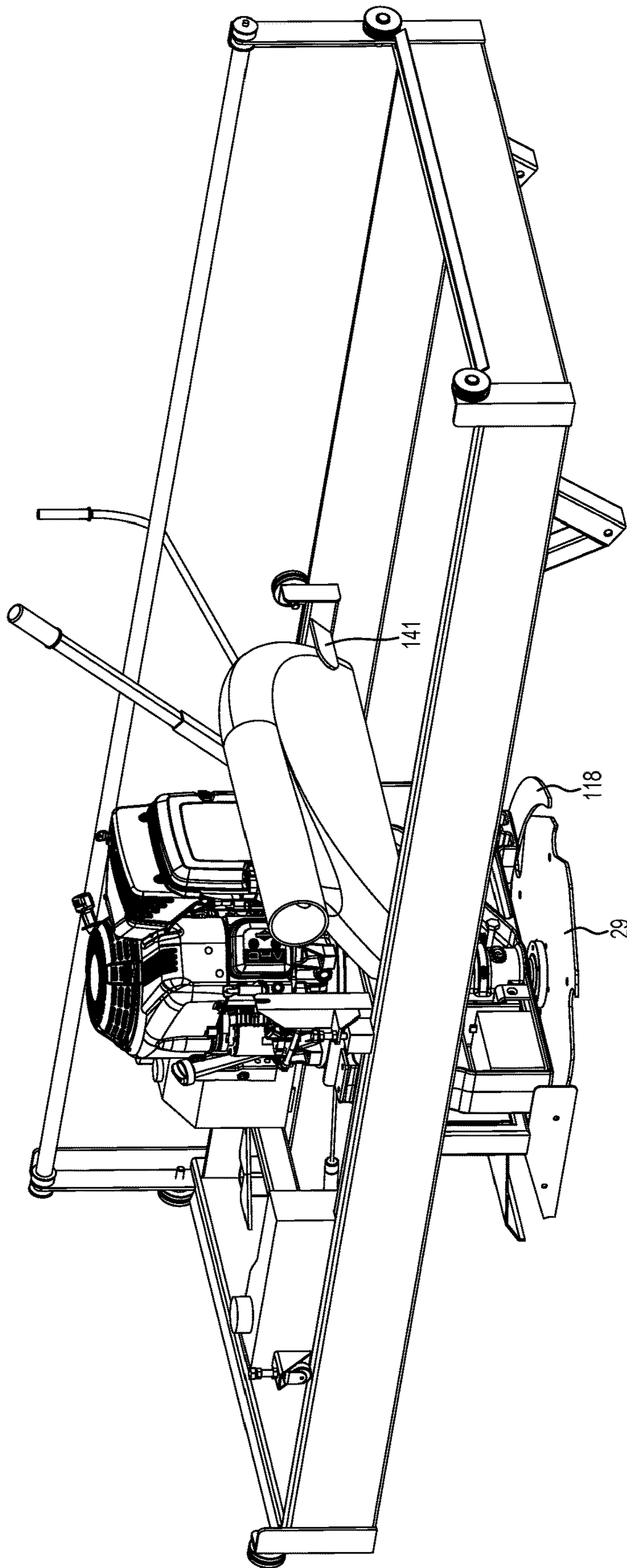


Figure 16

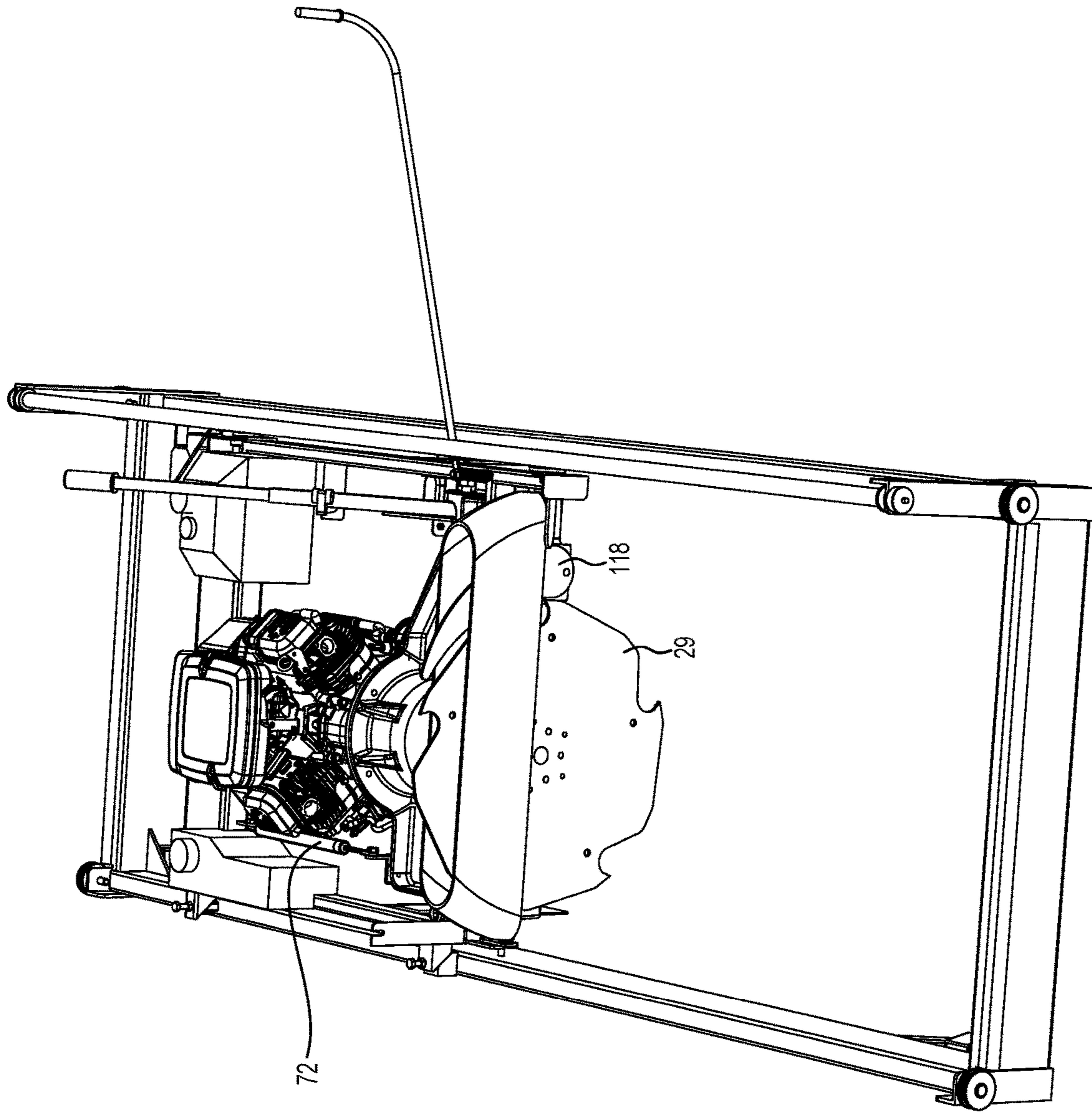


Figure 17

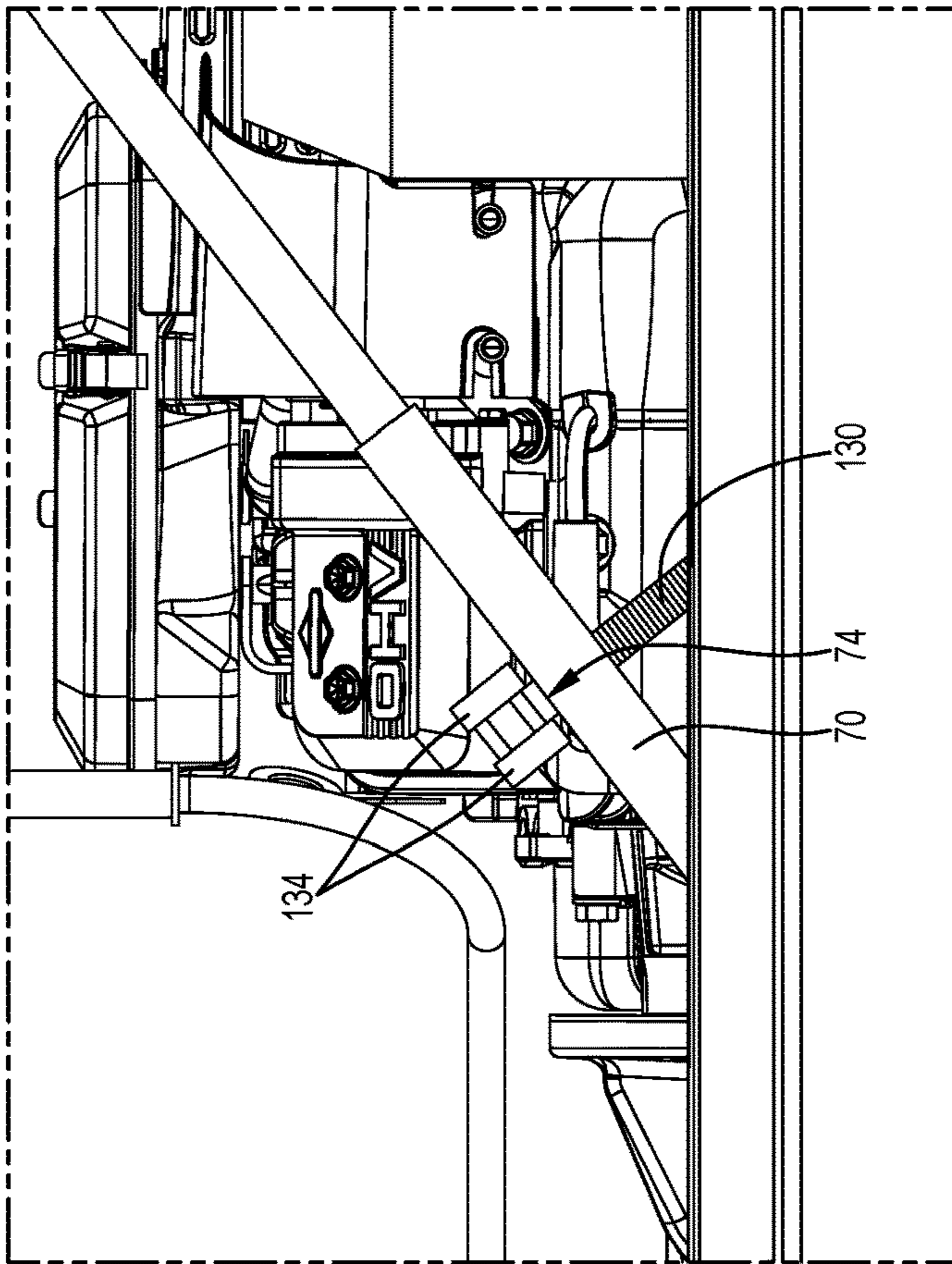


Figure 19

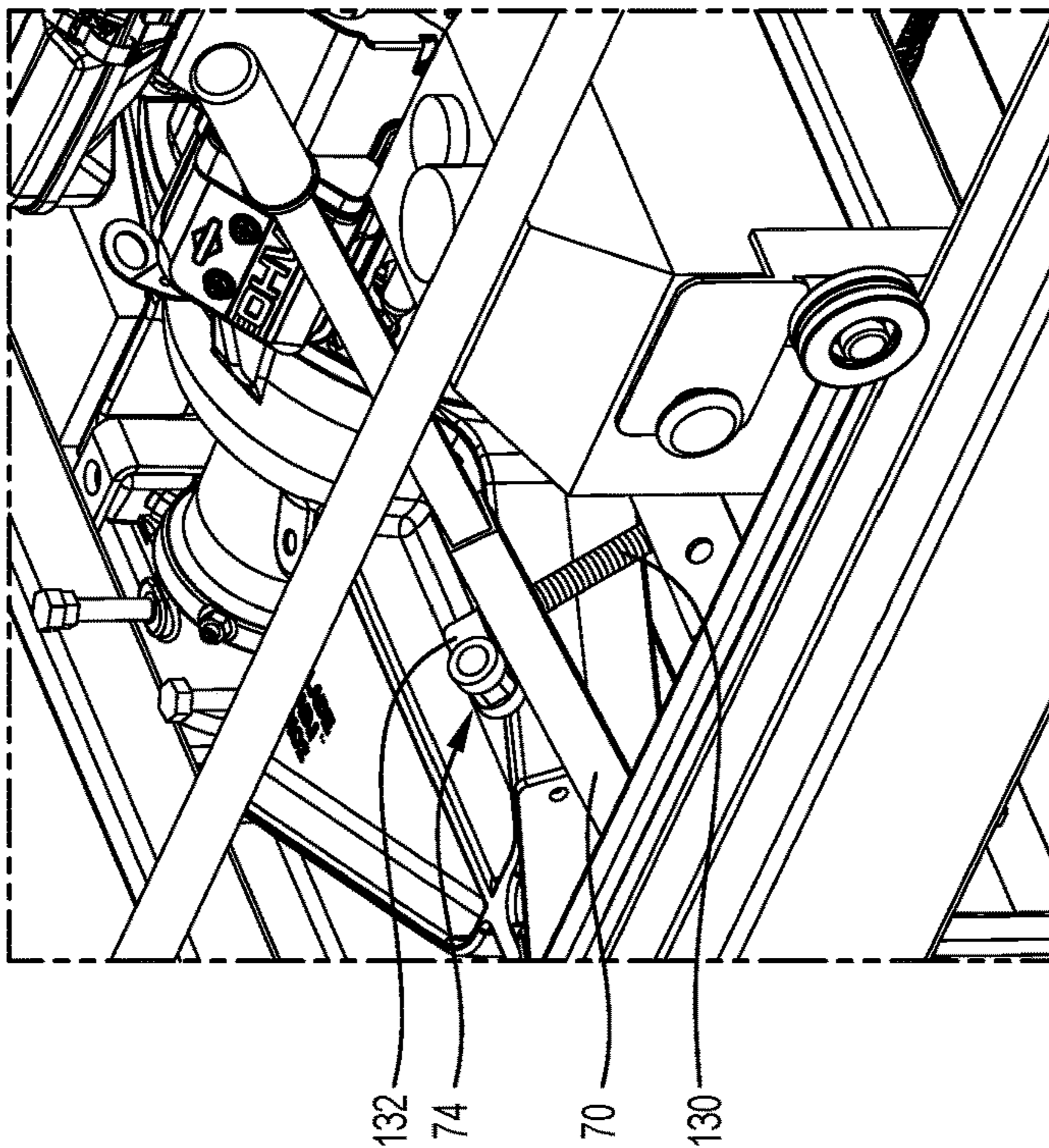


Figure 18

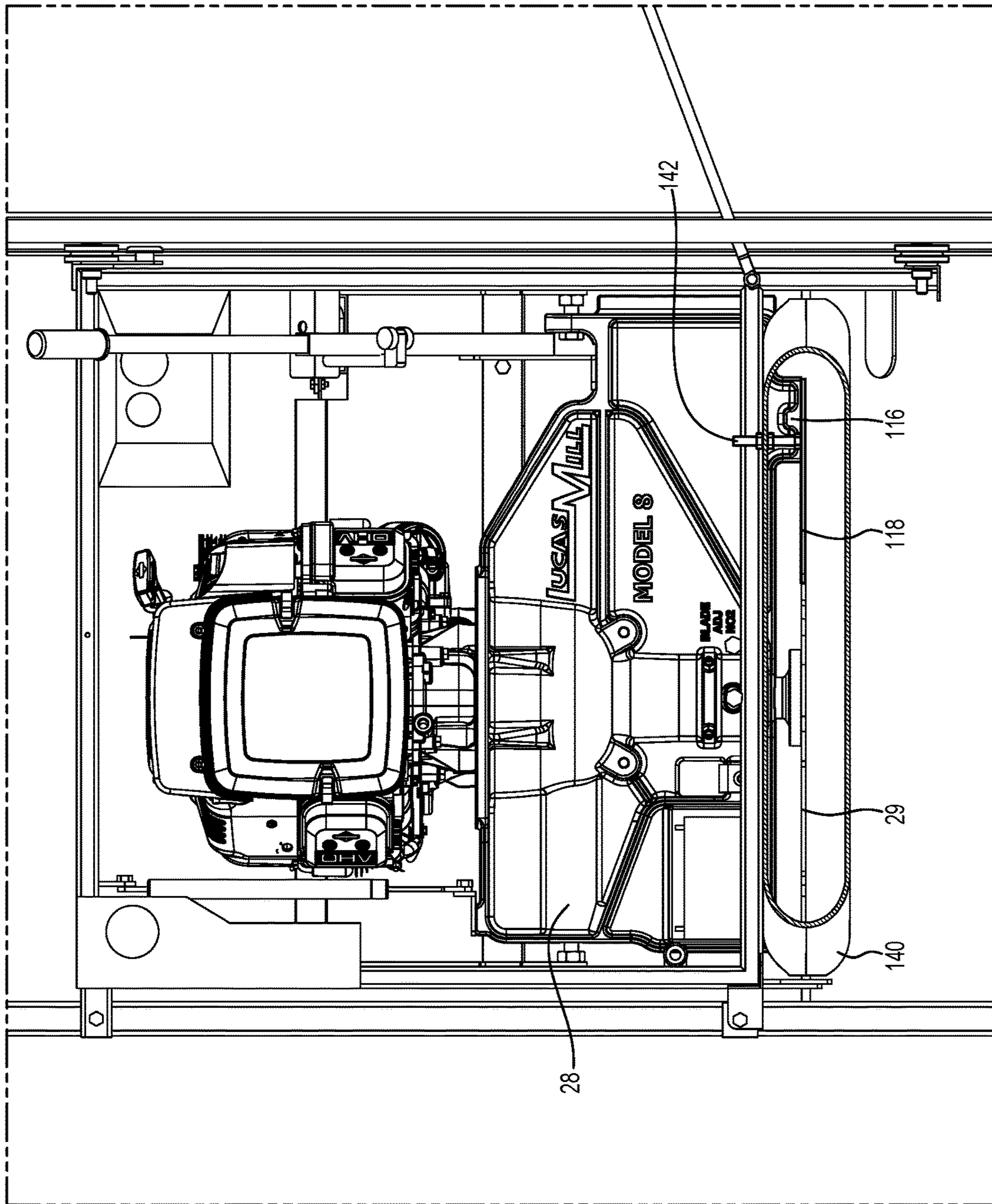


Figure 20

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PORTABLE SAWMILL**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims benefit of Australian patent application Serial No. 2017903768 filed Sep. 15, 2017, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

FIELD

The present disclosure generally relates to sawmills. In particular, although not exclusively, the disclosure relates to a portable sawmill of the type which can be transported to a remote location and assembled over the top of a felled log in situ. The portable sawmill can then be used to cut the felled log into milled timber. While embodiments disclosed herein are described particularly in respect of a swing blade portable sawmill having a particular frame design, the disclosure has application to other swing blade portable sawmills with other frame designs.

BACKGROUND

Known portable sawmills generally employ a pivoting mechanism where the circular sawblade is able to be oriented in either of two operative positions, namely upright and horizontal, and pivoted therebetween. This is referred to as a “swing blade” sawmill. This enables the sawmill to make longitudinal cuts in the felled log to convert it to elongate pieces of milled timber.

Portable sawmills generally use four-stroke engines. Four-stroke engines are preferable to two-stroke engines because two-stroke engines are loud and vibrate and are therefore less pleasant to work with than four-stroke engines, given that the operator is close to the engine. Additionally, it is not easy to accurately govern revolutions per minute in a two-stroke motor. Governing is important firstly because of the extremely high gyroscopic forces which act on the sawblade when rotating the sawblade between the two operative positions. Secondly, governing is required to set the output speed to match the sawblade manufacturer’s recommended blade operating speed. Thus, in a portable sawmill, two-stroke motors also require belts and pulleys to reduce revolutions per minute (rpm) to suit the manufacturer’s recommended rpm for the sawblade. The belts and pulleys add to the cost and weight for a portable sawmill. Additionally, two-stroke motors have low fuel efficiency.

Electric and hydraulic motors have also been used as power sources for portable sawmills. However, electric and hydraulic motors require external power sources which limit portability. They also require a gantry arrangement in order to route the electrical or hydraulic conduits to the motor. Such arrangements add complexity of the structure. They increase operating risk and affect maneuverability of the movable saw head.

Therefore, four-stroke motors are typically the motor of choice for a portable sawmill. However, four-stroke motors have other deficiencies in their application to portable sawmills. Typically, the type of four-stroke engines which are available for agricultural and other low cost applications

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utilise a carburetor and an engine lubrication system with a wet sump. Both of these features require the four-stroke engine to be maintained at a substantially level orientation. Due to these constraints, it is usual for a portable sawmill to use a four-stroke engine that has a power transfer including a centrifugal clutch and a belt drive which drives the pulley on a 90° gearbox. The output of the 90° gear box is coupled to the sawblade. In order to rotate the sawblade from the horizontal to the vertical position, the sawblade and the gearbox are mounted on a swing plate which can be rotated about the pivot axis of the pulley. This configuration allows the four-stroke engine to remain in a substantially level configuration irrespective of the position of the sawblade. However, the belt drive and gearbox merely add to the cost and weight of the portable sawmill. Additionally a known portable sawmill, the Lucas Mill sawmill, uses 4 cast parts for the swing plate and the gearbox giving rise to manufacturing complexity.

Other more complex engines are also known which use a dry sump which is a separate compartment from the crankcase. These arrangements are more complex and costly to manufacture and therefore add to the cost of an item of agricultural machinery intended to have a low cost base.

It is therefore an object of the present disclosure to provide a portable sawmill which reduces the weight and/or complexity and/or number of components. It is also an object of the present disclosure to provide a portable sawmill which provides the public with a useful choice over known portable sawmills.

Reference to any prior art in the specification is not an acknowledgment or suggestion that this prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in any jurisdiction or that this prior art could reasonably be expected to be understood, regarded as relevant, and/or combined with other pieces of prior art by a skilled person in the art.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the first aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided, a sawmill including:

a four-stroke internal combustion engine having: an output shaft for driving a sawblade, the output shaft having a longitudinal axis; and a crankcase having an opening for assembly of at least a crankshaft and piston, and a closure covering the opening;

a support framework, the engine being selectively pivotable relative to a portion of the support framework between a first operative position with the longitudinal axis of the output shaft extending at a sideways angle, and a second operative position with the longitudinal axis of the output shaft extending at a downwards angle transversely to the sideways angle, the engine having fuel injection to facilitate operation in both the first and second operative positions; and

a lubrication system for circulating an amount of lubricant corresponding to a predetermined capacity for the engine, wherein the crankcase incorporates a wet sump, wherein the wet sump is defined by a first wet sump region which is open to the crankcase for collection of lubricant in the first operative position of the engine, the lubricant collecting up to a first liquid level in the first wet sump region when said amount of lubricant is supplied to the engine, with the depth of the crankcase being such that the crankshaft is clear of the first lubricant level,

the wet sump being further defined by a second wet sump region in the closure for collection of lubricant in the second operative position of the engine, the lubricant collecting up

to a second liquid level in the second wet sump region when said amount of lubricant is supplied to the engine, the depth of the closure being greater than the depth of the second lubricant level,

wherein the lubrication system includes an oil inlet disposed at an intersection of the first wet sump region and the second wet sump region.

Thus, desirably, the oil inlet will be disposed below the first liquid level for the first operative position and below the second liquid level for the second operative position. This corresponds to a low point of the crankcase for both the first operative position for the second operative position.

The sawmill is preferably a portable sawmill of the type which can be transported to a remote location and assembled over the top of a felled log in situ.

The depth of the first and second wet sump regions when the engine is in respective first and second operative positions is preferably such that clearance is provided between at least the crankshaft, connecting rod or rods, and timing gears, and the first and second lubricant levels respectively. In one embodiment, the depth of the first and second wet sump regions when the engine is in respective first and second operative positions is such that clearance is provided between all moving engine parts and the first and second lubricant levels respectively.

The first wet sump region is open to the crankcase for collection of lubricant in the first operative position of the engine. This may mean no or minimal baffles or partitions separating the first wet sump region from the remainder of the crankcase. Preferably, oil within the crankcase falls directly to the first wet sump region under gravity when the engine is in the first operative position. Thus, preferably, the surface of the lubricant at the first liquid level faces is exposed to at least the crankshaft and optionally other moving parts of the engine. The second wet sump region is preferably open to the crankcase and similar comments may apply. The wet sump regions overlap at said intersection. The first and second wet sump regions may be defined by surfaces of the crankcase and closure which define open trays. The trays may be shallow. The trays overlap at said intersection.

Preferably, the output shaft exits through the closure. Preferably, the output shaft is in-line coupled to a sawblade shaft for mounting of the sawblade i.e. preferably, the output shaft and the saw shaft have aligned longitudinal axes. Preferably, the coupling between the output shaft and the saw shaft is such that the sawblade rotation is in the same direction as the output shaft.

The lubrication system preferably includes a pump to collect oil which is pumped through the lubrication system i.e. the lubrication system is pressure fed. Oil filtration is provided which is only possible with pump fed lubrication systems. Lubrication systems for internal combustion engines which use a pump and a wet sump are well known and need not be detailed further. In a preferred embodiment, there is a single oil inlet for the lubrication system. Furthermore, the single oil inlet may be in fluid communication with a single pump of the lubrication system thereby simplifying the lubrication system. The oil inlet is preferably provided in an oil inlet device which may be tubular. Preferably, the oil inlet device has an enlarged mouth, such as a trumpet mouth at the oil inlet. The oil inlet device may be connected to the pump by way of a conduit. In an alternative embodiment, the oil inlet may be incorporated into the crankcase, such as the timing cover forming part of the crank case.

The location of the oil inlet enables the oil to drain under gravity towards the oil inlet irrespective of whether the engine is in the first operative position or the second operative position. The oil inlet device may be angled towards the corner, with the oil inlet closest to the corner. The oil inlet device may be disposed within the closure (which could function as a timing cover). Preferably the sump is arranged to have sufficient depth of oil in use to remain clear of reciprocating engine parts in both the first and second operative positions.

As provided by embodiments described herein, the engine (and the sawblade once attached), have two operative positions. It is to be understood the term "operative" means that the engine and sawblade are able to operate in that position for the intention of milling timber. Preferably, with the first operative position, the sawblade will make substantially vertical cuts in the timber. Preferably, in the second operative position, the sawblade can make substantially horizontal cuts. Thus, it is preferred that the engine and the sawblade assembly are selectively pivotable 90° from the first operative position to the second operative position and pivotable return to the first operative position. Preferably, the engine and the sawblade are selectively manually adjustable by the operator to pivot between the first and the second operative positions. In a most preferred embodiment, there are only two operative positions, being the first and second operative positions i.e. the first and second operative positions are the only selectable operative positions.

Preferably, the first and second operative positions of the engine extend substantially orthogonal to each other. In a most preferred embodiment, in the first operative position, the longitudinal axis of the output shaft is arranged substantially horizontally and in the second operative position, the longitudinal axis of the output shaft is arranged substantially vertically to extend below the engine.

The sawmill may include a pivot body pivotably mounted to said portion of the support framework with the engine being secured to the pivot body. Preferably, the pivot body includes pivot portions to provide the pivotable mounting and a mounting portion for mounting of the engine. The pivot portions preferably define a pivot axis which extends transversely to the central longitudinal axis of the output shaft and is substantially coincident with the central longitudinal axis. Relative to the length of the shaft(s) the pivot axis is preferably spaced half the diameter of the sawblade along the shaft(s) in the direction away from the sawblade, toward the engine.

The pivot body may further include a housing portion such that the output shaft exited from the engine or motor is enclosed between the pivot body and the engine/motor.

There may be a direct coupling between the output shaft and the saw shaft. However, it is preferred that there is a clutch coupling, most preferably a centrifugal clutch. Additionally, a cush-drive may also be provided. Preferably the housing portion surrounds the clutch and/or the cush-drive. The saw shaft may be supported by a bearing which is surrounded by the housing portion.

The pivot portions, the mounting portion and the housing portion may be formed as a unitary part, most preferably the pivot body including the pivot portions, the mounting portion and the housing portion is a unitarily cast part.

In the assembled sawmill, the pivot body may be pivotable relative to a carriage which is slidable transversely relative to the longitudinal dimension of the sawmill. In turn, the carriage may be mounted on a support frame which is slidable longitudinally on the longitudinal rails, as will be known in the field of portable sawmills. The longitudinal

rails are also selectively moveable up and down. These movements which may be selectively effected by the operator enable the sawblade to move relative to the felled log in a manner which allows the sawblade to cut the log into milled timber without movement of the log. Reference is made to our earlier international patent application no. PCT/AU95/00163, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

The fuel injection employed by the four-stroke engine is preferably electronic fuel injection. The engine is preferably a V-twin engine. V-twin is preferred over single cylinder engines because in the larger size needed for this application, a single cylinder engine vibrates too much which is unpleasant for the operator and lowers the performance. The engine is preferably air-cooled. The type of engine is a commercial grade engine. The engine is to undergo constant heavy work, not intermittent use as per garden tools. The horse-power range is within 14-50 hsp, preferably 14-40 hsp, most preferably about 24 hsp. The engine capacity is 500-1000 cc.

As will be understood to those skilled in the field, engines typically have a lubricant capacity (otherwise known as oil capacity). Lubricant capacity is defined as the amount of lubricant the engine is designed to accommodate. Overfilling may lead to excessive oil consumption and underfilling may result in oil pump starvation and severe engine damage. Thus, the engine will have a predetermined lubricant capacity which the wet sump is intended to accommodate—both in the first operative position and in the second operative position.

Any of the features described below may be incorporated into the first aspect of the disclosure.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided, a sawmill including:

an engine or motor having an output shaft for driving a sawblade, the output shaft having a longitudinal axis;

a support apparatus for supporting the engine/motor, the support apparatus including a support framework, the engine/motor being selectively pivotable relative to a portion of the support framework between a first operative position with the longitudinal axis extending at a first angle, and a second operative position with the longitudinal axis extending at a second angle different to the first angle,

the support apparatus further including a pivot body to pivotably mount the engine/motor to said portion of the support framework, the pivot body including: pivot portions for pivotable mounting of the pivot body about a pivot axis to said portion of the support framework; a mounting portion to which the engine/motor is secured, the mounting portion surrounding the output shaft; and a housing portion to accommodate the output shaft exited from the engine/motor.

Preferably, the pivot body including the pivot portions, the mounting portion and the housing portion is a unitarily formed cast part. The mounting portion may be formed as a flange at the edge of the housing portion.

Preferably, the first and second operative positions extend substantially orthogonal to each other. In a more preferred embodiment, the first and second operative positions are the only selectable operative positions. In the first operative position, the longitudinal axis of the output shaft is preferably arranged substantially horizontally and in the second operative position, the longitudinal axis of the output shaft is preferably arranged substantially vertically to extend below the engine/motor.

The output shaft may be in-line coupled to a saw shaft via a clutch and the housing portion preferably surrounds the clutch. Furthermore, the output shaft may be in-line coupled

to a saw shaft via a cush-drive and the housing portion preferably surrounds the cush-drive. The saw shaft and/or the output shaft may be supported by a bearing which is surrounded by the housing portion.

The pivot body is preferably substantially planar in form with the housing portion being centrally disposed to divide the planar form into two parts either side thereof. The planar pivot body may include stiffening beam portions on both planar surfaces of the pivot body. The stiffening beam portions may include at least one stiffening beam substantially aligned with the pivot axis of the pivot body.

The pivot body may include a battery mounting or receptacle for mounting a battery on the other side of the pivot axis to the engine/motor. In this aspect of the disclosure, the engine/motor is not limited to an internal combustion engine. Electric, hydraulic and other types of motors are included within the scope of the second aspect of the disclosure.

Preferably the sawmill further includes a transfer apparatus for controlling pivoting between the first and second operative positions wherein the transfer apparatus dampens the movement from at least the second operative position to the first operative position and is arranged to provide lift assistance throughout the movement from the first operative position to the second operative position. Preferably the transfer device is connected between said portion of the support framework and the pivot body.

In a most preferred embodiment, the transfer device is in the form of a gas strut or a linear actuator arranged to provide substantially constant dampening from the second operative position to the first operative position and lift assistance throughout the movement from the first operative position to the second operative position.

In another preferred embodiment, the transfer device includes a dampener to provide substantially constant dampening from the second operative position to the first operative position and a mechanical strut to provide lift assistance throughout the movement from the first operative position to the second operative position.

Any of the features described above in connection with the first aspect of the disclosure may be incorporated into the second aspect of the disclosure.

In accordance with a third aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided, a pivot body to pivotably mount an engine or motor to a portion of a support framework, the pivot body including:

pivot portions for pivotable mounting of the pivot body about a pivot axis to said portion of the support framework;

a housing portion having a mouth to receive an output shaft the engine/motor; and

a peripheral mounting portion at the mouth of the housing portion for mounting of the engine/motor.

The pivot body preferably includes the pivot portions, the mounting portion and the housing portion as a unitarily formed cast part.

The housing portion preferably forms an enclosure open at one end at the mouth and open at an end opposite to the mouth. The pivot body may be substantially planar in form with the housing portion being centrally disposed to divide the planar form into two parts either side thereof. The mounting portion may be formed as a flange at the mouth of the housing portion. The planar pivot body may include stiffening beam portions on both planar surfaces of the pivot body. The stiffening beam portions may include at least one stiffening beam substantially aligned with the pivot axis of the pivot body.

The pivot body preferably includes a battery mounting or receptacle for mounting a battery on the other side of the pivot axis to the mounting portion.

Any of the features described above in connection with the first and aspects of the disclosure may be incorporated into the third aspect of the disclosure.

It will be understood that the embodiments disclosed and defined in this specification extends to all alternative combinations of two or more of the individual features mentioned or evident from the text or drawings. All of these different combinations constitute various alternative aspects of the disclosure.

Further aspects of the present disclosure and further embodiments of the aspects described in the preceding paragraphs will become apparent from the following description, given by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

In order that the disclosure may be more fully understood, an embodiment will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the figures in which:

FIG. 1 is a side view of a 4-stroke internal combustion engine showing internal details including a horizontally extending crankshaft;

FIG. 2 is an end view of the 4-stroke internal combustion engine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a side view of the engine in FIG. 1 showing internal details, except showing the crankshaft vertically oriented;

FIG. 4A is an enlarged side view illustrating the coupling of the engine to a sawblade with the crankshaft horizontal and the sawblade in the vertical cut position with an upright cross-section through a pivot body for pivotable mounting of the engine;

FIG. 4B is an enlarged top view of the engine and sawblade assembly of FIG. 4A with the crankshaft horizontal and the sawblade in the vertical cut position with a horizontal cross-section through the pivot body;

FIG. 4C is a detailed cross section through the pivot body of FIG. 4A showing the internal components of the pivot body;

FIG. 4D is a perspective view from above and from a sawblade end of the pivot body;

FIG. 4E is a perspective view from below and an engine end of the pivot body shown in FIG. 4D;

FIG. 4F is a top view of the pivot body of FIG. 4D;

FIG. 4G is an underside view of the pivot body of FIG. 4D;

FIG. 5 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the two discrete positions of the engine and sawblade assembly, one shown in solid lines with the crankshaft horizontal and the sawblade in the vertical cut position and the other shown in phantom with the crankshaft vertical and the sawblade in the horizontal cut position;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a portable sawmill incorporating the engine and sawblade assembly with the pivot body of FIGS. 4 and 5 over the top of a felled log;

FIG. 7 is an alternative perspective view of the portable sawmill of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a top view of the portable sawmill of FIG. 6;

FIG. 9 is a side view of the portable sawmill of FIG. 6;

FIG. 10 is an end view of the portable sawmill of FIG. 6;

FIG. 11 is a detailed view of a portion of the support framework of FIG. 6, more specifically the support frame, with the engine shown with the output shaft in the horizontal position;

FIG. 12 is an alternative view of the support frame of FIG. 11, with the output shaft shown in the horizontal position and the sawblade in the vertical cut position;

FIG. 13A is a side view of the support frame of FIG. 11 with the output shaft shown in the horizontal position with the sawblade shown in a vertical cut position;

FIG. 13B is a side view of the support frame of FIG. 13A, with the output shaft shown in the vertical position with the sawblade oriented in a horizontal cut position;

FIG. 14 is a detailed top view of the carriage on which the pivot body and engine is pivotably mounted, with the output shaft oriented in a horizontal position and the sawblade in a vertical cut position;

FIG. 15 is a perspective view of the support frame of FIG. 11 with the output shaft oriented in a vertical position and the sawblade oriented in the horizontal cut position;

FIG. 16 is an alternative perspective view of the support frame with the engine oriented as per FIG. 15;

FIG. 17 is an alternative perspective view of the support frame as per FIGS. 11 and 12, except with parts removed for clarity, including an upper portion of the saw guard;

FIG. 18 is a detailed view of the change-over handle and the catch for maintaining the engine with the output shaft in a horizontal configuration;

FIG. 19 is a side view of the change-over handle and the catch of FIG. 18;

FIG. 20 is a top view of the support frame of FIG. 17 with the top of the saw guard cut away.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 6 is similar in some respects to a known form of a Lucas Mill portable sawmill described in our earlier international patent application PCT/AU95/00163 for a "Portable sawmill", the details of which are included herein by reference. Details of the Lucas Mill portable sawmill, including more modern aspects to that described in the above patent application will be understood by those skilled in the art. The general form of the portable sawmill 8 will firstly be described with reference to FIGS. 6 to 10.

Support Apparatus

Turning to FIG. 6, a support apparatus for the engine includes a rectangular support framework 10, support frame 23, carriage 23a (see FIG. 14) and pivot body 28 (see FIG. 14).

Support Framework

Returning to FIG. 6, the framework 10 is set up in the field over a felled log 11 which is ready for milling. The framework includes rectangular end frames 12a and 12b. Each end frame 12a, 12b comprises upper and lower members 13 and 14 respectively and side members 15 and 16 respectively. A telescopic brace means 17 is shown propping each end frame 12a, 12b in a substantially upright position. Being telescopic, the length of the brace means 17 can be adjusted.

One end of the brace means 17 is coupled to the side member 16 while the other end engages with the ground. During set up of the end frames 12a, 12b, the telescopic brace means 17 lie in a plane substantially at right angles to

the plane of the end frame. Brace means **17** thus provide lateral support to the end frames **12a**, **12b** while assembling the mill.

Side members **15** and **16** are respectively fitted with brackets **18** and **19** which are slidable up and down the side member **15**, **16**. Each bracket has a ledge on which a rail **21**, **22** can be supported. A winding means **20** shown associated with each of the upper member **13** and corresponding side member **15** or **16** is provided to wind the brackets **18**, **19** up and down via a pulley mechanism in a manner which will be known to persons skilled in the art and as described in our earlier patent application.

Longitudinal rails **21** and **22** are shown as spanning between the corresponding side members **15** and **16** of the end frames **12a** and **12b**. The longitudinal rails **21** and **22** are engaged with the slidable brackets **18** and **19**. Each side rail is accordingly adjustable up or down (as indicated by the arrows A) by movement of the slidable brackets **18** and **19** on the side members **15** and **16** respectively.

In the operating position, the brace means **17** are shown as located, such as to provide lateral support to the whole support framework whilst sawmilling.

Support Frame

As best shown in FIGS. **8** and **11**, a support frame **23** is shown spanning between the longitudinal rails **21** and **22**. Wheels **24** are provided at each end of the support frame **23** whereupon the support frame **23** is movable on the side rails **21** and **22** in a longitudinal direction relative to the frame **10** as shown by the arrows B (see FIG. **8**). Thus the support frame **23** can be moved along the rails toward or away from the respective end frames **12a** and **12b**.

Carriage

A carriage **23a** is mounted on the support frame **23** for movement relative to the support frame **23**. As best shown in FIG. **11**, the carriage **23a** is mounted by four wheels **74** so that it is movable along the long sides of the support frame **23**. The carriage **23a** is thus moveable transversely relative to the support framework **10** and longitudinally relative to the support frame **23** as shown by arrows C in FIG. **8**. This carriage **23a** supports the engine and sawblade assembly **25** (see FIG. **14**). Thus, by a combination of the movement of rails **21** and **22** (arrows A), the movement of support frame **23** along rails **21** and **22** (arrows B) and the movement of carriage **23a** relative to support frame **23** (arrows C), the position of the engine and sawblade assembly **25** relative to support framework **10** can be readily adjusted in 3 dimensions to most locations within the framework **10**.

Brief Details of Pivot Body

FIG. **14** illustrates the form of a pivot body **28** which supports the engine and sawblade assembly **25** on the carriage **23a** for pivotable mounting about a pivot axis **27**. The features of the pivot body **28** will be subsequently described in more detail.

An actuator in the form of a change-over handle **70** (as per FIGS. **12** and **13**) is provided to enable the operator to selectively manually pivot the engine and sawblade assembly **25** between the two operative positions.

FIG. **5** illustrates the engine and sawblade assembly **25**. By virtue of the pivot body (not shown in FIG. **5**), the engine and sawblade assembly **25** may pivot about the pivot axis **27**

between two discrete operative positions as shown. As per FIG. **4A**, the pivot axis **27** lies along and transversely to the rotational axis of the output shaft **36** and/or sawmill shaft **62** or closely adjacent thereto. The pivotal mounting enables the engine and sawblade assembly **25** to adopt a first operative position in which the sawblade **29** is disposed in a substantially upright configuration for a vertical cut and a second operative position in which the sawblade **29** is disposed in a substantially horizontal configuration for a horizontal cut.

Sawmill Operation

The rotation of the sawblade **29** between these two discrete operative positions together with the movability relative to the framework in directions A, B and C enables the portable sawmill **8** to mill a felled log **11** into milled timber.

As will be understood by those familiar with portable sawmills, the height position (arrows A) for a cut is firstly selected by adjusting the height of the rails **21**, **22** on the end frames **12a**, **12b** using the manual winding means **20**. The lateral position of the blade can be selectively adjusted by lateral adjustment of the carriage **23a** on the support frame **23** (arrows C). Adjustment to select the first or second operative position is also made prior to making a cut.

When the operator is ready to make a cut, the operator pushes the support frame **23** along the longitudinal rails, **21**, **22** by pushing on push bar **23b** (see FIG. **11**) and the sawblade **29** passes through the log **11**. The operator then draws the support frame **23** back past the log **11** by pulling on the pull bar **23c**.

When the operator is ready to make the first initial horizontal cut, the operator pushes the support frame **23** along the longitudinal rails, **21**, **22** by pushing on push bar **23b** (see FIG. **11**) and the sawblade pushes through the log **11**. Then the operator pivots the blade from horizontal to vertical. The operator then draws the support frame **23** back through the log **11** in the vertical cut by pulling on pull handle **23c**. On return, the operator makes the adjustments (any or all of A, C and selection between first and second operative positions) and the process repeats until the log is sawn into milled timber. All movements are manually effected and manually powered.

Pivot Body

As shown in FIGS. **4A** and **4B**, the engine **30** is mounted to the pivot body **28** which is pivotably mounted to the carriage **23A**. The pivotal mounting of the pivot body **28** enables the engine and sawblade assembly to adopt the two discrete positions illustrated in FIG. **5**. With reference to FIGS. **4A-4G**, the pivot body **28** has a substantially planar form defined by multiple plate sections **84**. The pivot body is somewhat rectangular in overall shape as can be seen from FIG. **4F**. The pivot axis **27** runs in the lengthwise direction of the pivot body **28**. The pivot body **28** defines pivot portions **86** at each end of the pivot body. The first pivot portion **86a** is provided on a projection **88** from the pivot body **28**. A second pivot portion **86b** is provided at the other end of the pivot body **28** within a shell portion **90** of the pivot body. The shell portion **90** is a half-cylindrical shell with a hollow being provided on the underside of the pivot body **28**. This defines a hollow and access point for insertion of a bearing **92b** into a bearing recess and seat provided in the shell portion **90**. The bearing **92b** provides a pivotal mounting for a pivot pin **94b**. The pivot pin **94b** is fastened by two lock nuts **96b** to one side of the carriage **23A**.

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Likewise, the extension **88** at the first pivot portion **86a** also provides a seat for a bearing **92a** which provides a pivotable mounting for the pivot pin **94a** which is secured to the other side of the carriage **23a** by lock nuts **96a**. The pivot body **28** is therefore able to pivot about the pivot axis **27** by virtue of the pivotal connections.

Referring back to FIG. 4F, it can be seen that the extension **88** defines a recess **90**. As shown in FIG. 14, the recess **90** receives an L-shaped mounting bracket **98** which is fixedly secured to the changeover handle **70** which is used to pivot the pivot body **28** between the first and second operative positions.

As can be seen in FIGS. 4D and 4E, the pivot body **28** also includes stiffeners **100** on both sides of the plate-like body. As can be seen from FIG. 4F, one of these stiffeners **100** is somewhat aligned with the pivot axis **27** which is approximately aligned with the half-shell portion **90** on either side of a housing portion **102**. The alignment of the stiffener **100**, the housing portion **102** and the shell portion **90** provides for increased stiffness in the region of the pivot axis **27**.

As will be best appreciated from FIGS. 4C and 4E, the mounting portion **102** is a hollow body of revolution and includes a first bell-shaped portion **104** and a second approximately cylindrical portion **106**. The bell-shaped portion **104** is contiguous with the quasi-cylindrical portion **106** to define a trumpet shape. Both portions **104**, **106** have a progressively decreasing diameter. This is to facilitate removal of the internal casting component from the interior of the housing portion **102**.

The pivot body **28** also includes a mounting portion **108** in the form of a peripheral flange at the mouth of the bell-shaped portion **104**. As shown in FIG. 4A, the engine **30** is bolted to the mounting portion **108** with an intervening dust plate **110**.

As per FIG. 4C, externally of the bell-shaped portion **104**, buttresses **112** extend between the bell-shaped portion **104** and the flange **108**. The buttresses **112** increase the torsional rigidity of the annular mounting portion **108**. The torsional rigidity of the annular mounting portion is important because of the gyroscopic forces exerted by the engine **30** onto the pivot body **28**, particularly when the pivot body **28** is rotating between the first and second operative positions. Thus, the bell-shaped portion **104**, the arrangement of the annular mounting portion **108** at the mouth of the bell-shaped portion **104** which itself is annular, and the buttresses **112** create a body having torsional rigidity.

The rigidity or bending stiffness of the pivot body is enhanced by a peripheral stiffener **114** which extends about the external periphery of the pivot body **28**.

The peripheral stiffener **114** also incorporates a mounting plate **116** for a safety guard in the form of a riving knife **118**. The riving knife can be seen in FIGS. 16 and 20 and aligns with the sawblade **29**. The riving knife is crescent-shaped in form and lies between the sawblade **29** and the operator to provide a measure of protection to prevent inadvertent operator contact with the spinning blade **29** and to stop entry into horizontal cuts in the wrong direction.

As can be seen from FIGS. 4D and 4E, the pivot body **28** also includes a battery mounting receptacle **120**. The base **122** of the battery mounting receptacle **120** is stepped down compared to the level of the plate sections **84**. The battery mounting receptacle **120** is thus surrounded on 4 sides by portions of the peripheral stiffener **114**; the step **124** between the base **122** and the adjacent plate section **84**; and one of the internal stiffeners **100**. The battery receptacle **120** houses a battery (not shown) which is retained therein by a retaining means (not shown) secured to the pivot body **28**. As can be

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seen, the battery receptacle **120** is disposed on the opposite side of the pivot axis **27** to the engine **30**. The battery will thus act as a partial counterweight to the weight of the engine **30**. The battery will also be placed in a convenient location for saw sharpening which uses battery power.

As can be seen from FIG. 4D, the peripheral stiffener **114** includes a circular opening **126** which aligns with the quasi-cylindrical portion **106** of the housing portion **102**. The opening **126** is for exit of the saw shaft **62** as shown in FIG. 4A.

The distance between the pivot axis **27** and the mounting portion **116** for the riving knife will be such that it positions the riving knife **118** at a position aligned with the sawblade. The distance between the pivot axis **27** and the mounting portion **116** for the riving knife corresponds to approximately half of the diameter of the sawblade **29**.

The centre of gravity for the pivot body with the fully assembled engine and sawblade assembly **25** is within the engine itself.

Gas Strut

Additionally, the pivotal mounting may include a gas strut **72** (see FIGS. 5, 14 and 15). The strut **72** has one end connected to the carriage **23a** and the other end connected to the pivot body **28**. The strut **72** includes a piston and rod assembly which enables the strut to adjust between the two operative positions. The piston and rod assembly is in the form of an oil-filled gas strut which dampens or modulates the speed of pivotal motion throughout the movements between the first and second operative positions. The dampening is constant throughout the stroke ensuring that the transition speed between the first and second operative positions is substantially constant and prevents the engine from bouncing or rushing when it moves down into the first operative position.

Additionally, the gas strut **72** operates as a spring to assist with moving the engine and sawblade assembly from the first operative position to the second operative position by releasing stored potential energy within the gas strut when the engine and sawblade assembly is released from the first operative position. The gas strut **72** helps to counteract the weight of the engine when lifting the engine and sawblade assembly from the first operative position to the second operative position. The gas strut **72** also holds the engine and sawblade assembly in the second operative position. The engine and sawblade assembly are held in the first operative position by the change-over handle **70** being retained by a mechanical catch **74** and also the weight of the engine **30**. The weight of the engine **30** is approximately 60 kg while the pivot body **28**, coupling including sawshaft **62** and sawblade **29** combined weigh approximately 20 kg. Thus the centre of gravity lies within the engine **30**.

A linear actuator could also take the place of the gas strut **72** and the change-over handle **70**.

Mechanical Catch

The mechanical catch **74** is best shown in FIGS. 18 and 19. The mechanical catch **74** is in the form of a finger **130** which projects at an acute angle from the carriage **23a**. The finger **130** has a crook portion **132** which provides a mounting for two-spaced bearings **134**. The crook portion **132** and the spaced bearings **134** define an overhang. The change-over handle **70** is held beneath the overhang when the changeover handle **70** is in the first operative position.

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When it is desired to release the changeover handle 70 from the first operative position, the operator pulls the change-over handle 70 forwardly so that the change-over handle rolls against the spaced bearings 130 to make release of the change-over handle 70 easier. The change-over handle is then free for the operator to pivot the pivot body 28 to move the engine and sawblade assembly to the second operative position. As mentioned, the gas strut 72 holds the engine and sawblade assembly in the second operative position.

Saw Guard

As best shown in FIGS. 11 and 12, a plastic roto-moulded saw guard 140 is provided to enclose an upper half of the sawblade 29 (see FIG. 12). The saw guard 140 has a forward facing exhaust opening 141 to emit sawdust in the direction away from the operator. As will be appreciated from an understanding of FIGS. 13A and 13B, the engine 30 is bulky and in the second operative position (FIG. 13B), the engine 30 would foul with the saw guard 140. However, the saw guard 140 is not required in this position because this sawblade is now below the engine 30. In this position, the saw guard 140 pivots out of the way of the engine 30.

As already mentioned, a riving knife 118 (see FIG. 20) aligns with the sawblade 29. In order to maintain the saw guard in the upright operative position of FIG. 13A, the riving knife 118 contacts an internal projection in the saw guard 140. This may be in the form of a bolt 142 secured to the engine facing side of the saw guard 140. The head of the bolt 142 contacts the riving knife as the pivot body 28 rotates from the second operative position (FIG. 13B) to the first operative position (FIG. 13A). The riving knife 118 thus pushes the saw guard 140 into the operative position as shown in FIG. 13A. The gas strut ensures that the speed of the rotation of the pivot body is controlled as the riving knife contacts the bolt 142.

When the assembly is moved from the first operative position of FIG. 13A to the second operative position of FIG. 13B, the riving knife 118 moves away from the bolt 142 and the saw guard 140 simply falls under gravity or is pushed out of the way by the engine 30 and comes to rest against stop 141 (see FIG. 16).

As can be seen from FIG. 12, the sawblade 29 has a series of holes to allow water to drip through and clean the blade. The water hose is not shown.

Low Profile of Pivot Body

As will be understood from an appreciation of FIG. 4C and FIG. 5, the quasi-cylindrical portion 106 of the housing portion 102 is narrower in girth than the bell-shaped portion 104. Referring again to FIG. 13a, when the sawblade is in the first operative position, the quasi-cylindrical portion 106 must pass over the top of the log 11 and therefore must be as slim or low profile as possible and of lesser girth than the bell-shaped portion 104 and also the sawblade hub 60. Additionally, when the assembly is in the second operative position, the cylindrical portion 106 must pass beside the log 11 as shown in FIG. 13B. The quasi-cylindrical portion passes the top of the log on one side and the side of the log on the other side. Therefore, this girth which is transverse to the plate-like form of the pivot body 28 must necessarily be as slim as possible and certainly slimmer than the bell-shaped portion 104 of the housing portion 102 and optionally also the sawblade hub 60.

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Once the sawblade 29 has made the vertical cut as shown in FIG. 13a and subsequently the horizontal cut shown in FIG. 13b, a piece of milled timber 11a will be formed. This milled timber 11a can be removed from the log to enable the milling process to continue.

Typically, the log 11 is sawed into planks or beams which run lengthwise in common with the length of the log 11. Each beam or plank is milled off the log 11 in layers moving from right to left from the viewpoint of FIGS. 13a and 13b. When a layer has been completed, the beams 21, 22 are moved downwardly so that the process of cutting the next layer of planks or beams can continue and so on until the milling of the log 11 is complete.

Thus, reverting to FIG. 4D, the profile of the bell-shaped housing portion 102 and the quasi-cylindrical portion 106 relative to the plate-like form of the pivot body 28 can be appreciated. The trumpet-like form of the bell-shaped housing portion 102 and the quasi-cylindrical portion 106 combined, is arranged so that the plane of plate sections 84 align with the diameter of the trumpet-like form 102, 106. Thus the profile of the trumpet-like form 102, 106 is substantially even on both sides. The stiffeners 100, 114 extend from the plate sections 84 on each side of the pivot body an extent which is substantially commensurate with the extent of the quasi-cylindrical portion 106 from each side of the plate sections 84. These features assist to provide the low-profile of the pivot body 28.

The trumpet-like form 102, 106 also extends transversely to the lengthwise direction of the pivot body, dividing the plate-like form into two parts on either side.

The pivot body 28 is specifically designed with a particular sawblade dimension. Otherwise, with an undersized blade, the horizontal and vertical cuts won't intersect. With an oversized blade, the vertical cut will penetrate the layer below which is undesirable.

The sawblade dimension will determine the distance between the mounting portion 116 for the riving knife and the pivot axis 27 to ensure intersecting cuts. The current model is designed for a sawblade 29 having a diameter 530 mm. This is able to cut a beam 11a of approximately 8 inches by 8 inches (approximately 203×203 mm).

Thus, the integrally cast pivot body 28 will precisely locate various components which need to be accurately relatively positioned and/or oriented in order to ensure operation of the sawmill 8. For example, the sawshaft and the engine need to be accurately positioned. As another example, the pivot points need to be precisely located. The sawblade needs to be perpendicular to the pivot axis. The integrally cast pivot body 28 ensures the squareness and trueness of various components.

The pivot body 28 is preferably sand or die cast with two mould halves and an insert for the trumpet-like form of the housing and quasi-cylindrical portions 102, 106.

Engine

FIGS. 1-3 illustrate the form of the engine 30 which is a 4-stroke internal combustion (petrol) engine having electronic fuel injection 194 (see FIG. 11). A preferred engine is a 23 horse power, electronic fuel injected, air cooled, V-twin Briggs & Stratton, horizontal shaft engine which has undergone inventive modification in view of the current application. However, single cylinder or V-twin diesel engines are also possible.

The engine 30 includes a crankcase 32 with a closure in the form of a timing cover 34. The timing cover 34 permits assembly of the crankshaft 76, pistons 78, connecting rods

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80 and other components into the crankcase 32. The crankshaft 76 includes the output shaft 36 or is connected thereto. The output shaft 36 protrudes through the timing cover 34 as shown. Other components within the crankcase 32 include timing gears including the crank gear 180 and the cam gear 182 by which the camshaft 184 is rotated. The camshaft drives the valves 186 to open and close in a manner which will be known to those familiar with engine technology. The crank gear 180 also drives the oil pump gear 188. The oil pump gear 188 may be protected by an arcuate shroud 190 which extends around the underside of the oil pump gear 188 (when considered from the first operative position) in order to prevent the oil pump gear 188 from being immersed in the sump oil during operation.

As will be understood by those skilled in the field of engines, a predetermined amount of lubricant or oil is supplied to the engine 30 according to the oil capacity of the engine 30, determined by known means.

In the horizontal configuration of the engine 30 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 (first operative position), the timing cover 34 will define a portion of the first wet sump region 37a where oil accumulates in the bottom of the crankcase 32. The first liquid level, being the maximum level to which oil accumulates when it is supplied according to the oil capacity of the engine is depicted in FIGS. 1 and 2 by the dotted line 38. Oil thus accumulating in the wet sump 37a is drawn into the lubrication system and is distributed throughout the engine in a manner well-known in the field of engines. The oil falls under gravity into the first wet sump region 37a when the engine and sawblade assembly is in the first operative position. The first wet sump region 37a is open to the crankcase 32.

The lubrication system includes an oil inlet device 40 in the first wet sump region 37a. The oil inlet device 40 may include a filter over the inlet in order to prevent entry of debris into the lubrication system. The oil inlet device 40 is connected to the lubrication system by means of a conduit 42.

As per the discussion of FIG. 5, the engine 30 is designed to pivot about the pivot axis 27 and will thus adopt the position (second operative position) illustrated in FIG. 3 whereby the sawblade 29 is in the substantially horizontal configuration. In this second operative position, the timing cover 34 defines a second wet sump region 37b. Numeral 44 defines the second liquid level being the maximum oil level to which oil accumulates when it is supplied according to the oil capacity of the engine 30. Thus, as can be seen, the second liquid level 44 is shallower than the depth of the timing cover 34.

The oil inlet device 40 remains in the same position relative to the engine 30 and in both operative positions is disposed below the maximum oil level 38, 44. Thus, the oil inlet device 40 remains immersed in oil in the wet sump in both first and second operative positions of the engine 40. On the other hand, the reciprocating parts of the engine 30, including at least the crankshaft 76, the connecting rods 80 and the timing gears are clear of the first liquid level 37a in the first operative position and the second level 37b in the second operative position. This avoids the reciprocating engine parts moving within the wet sump which would create undesirable effects such as oil frothing.

As can be seen, the oil inlet device 40 is disposed in the lower region of the timing cover 34 (and the crankcase 32) to be immersed in oil in both the first and second operative positions of the engine and sawblade assembly 25. Put another way, the oil inlet is disposed in the crankcase 32 at a location which is most closely disposed to the sawblade

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and additionally, a location which is in a lower region of the engine 30 when the output shaft 36 is disposed in a horizontal configuration. Thus, the oil inlet is disposed in a lower region of the crankcase for the horizontal configuration of the output shaft 36 and in a region most closely positioned relative to the sawblade 29. This happens to coincide with a position within the timing cover 34 which happens to act as a sump in the horizontal configuration of the sawblade 29. Indeed, the intersection of the two criteria provides for the oil inlet 40 to be positioned anywhere along the bottom of the timing cover 34, when viewed from the perspective of FIG. 2. The oil inlet 40 is thus disposed at the intersection of the first wet sump region 37a and the second wet sump region 37b.

One particular and non-limiting manner of achieving the engine configuration is to take the Briggs & Stratton 23 horsepower EFI horizontal shaft engine and substitute the crank shaft and timing cover from a Briggs & Stratton 23 horsepower carburized vertical shaft engine. The adoption of the deeper timing cover 34 (compared to the normal timing cover for the horizontal shaft engine) provides for a sufficient sump depth in the second operative position of the assembly 25. Additionally, the crank shaft 76/output shaft 36 from the B&S vertical engine is longer to accommodate the increased depth of the timing cover/sump 34. The oil inlet device 40 is a newly designed and purpose-built part to meet the need to position the oil inlet 40 in the intended location at the intersection of the first and second wet sump regions 37a and 37b.

Engine Coupling to Sawshaft

FIGS. 4A and 4C illustrate the coupling of the engine 30 to the sawblade 29. The coupling includes centrifugal clutch 50, cush drive 52 and outrigger bearing 54. The centrifugal clutch 50, cush drive 52 and outrigger bearing 54 are disposed within the housing portion 102 which, including the bell-shaped portion 104 and the quasi-cylindrical portion 106, is shaped as a trumpet.

The sawblade 29 is removably attached to the saw hub 60 at the distal end of the saw shaft 62 by means of bolts (not shown). The saw hub 60 is integrally formed with the saw shaft 62 which is connected to the outboard end of the cush drive 52.

As shown in more detail in FIG. 4C, the output shaft 36 extends through the centrifugal clutch 50 where it is received within the inner race of an inboard bearing 150. The outer race of the inboard bearing 150 is received in the cush drive 52.

The cush drive 52 has a cush collar 162 which is provided with 5 cylindrical recesses which are arranged concentrically about the central rotational axis and at equal spacing along a circle which is concentric with the rotational axis. Each of these cylindrical recesses 152 receives a steel pin 154 secured in the clutch body 50. Surrounding each steel pin 154 is a series of toroidal rubber blocks which transmit torque between the clutch body 50 and the cush collar 162 of the cush drive 52 in a manner that provides dampening between the parts in order to reduce wear and fatigue of the metal components. The cush drive 52 provides the torque while the bearing 150 ensures the alignment.

The cush collar 162 also has a central recess 158 which receives the inboard end of the saw shaft 62. The inboard end of the saw shaft 62 is threaded and is secured to the outboard end of the cush collar 162 by means of a lock nut

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160 and by means of the outboard end of the cush collar 162 being internally threaded. The lock nut 160 is provided as an additional measure of safety.

At the outboard end of the quasi-cylindrical portion 106, an internal shoulder 164 is provided against which the outrigger bearing 54 is seated. The retaining sleeve 166 extending from the cush collar 162 52 bears against the inner race of the outrigger bearing 54. The spacer sleeve 166 is too long or an interference fit between the cush collar 162 and the inner race so as to force the inner race of the bearing 54 into position against the shoulder 164.

The outer race of the bearing 54 is held in position by the retaining sleeve 168. The retaining sleeve 168 has threaded holes 170 to enable engagement with retrieval pins for servicing of the bearing 54. Additionally, it can be seen that the inboard end of the retaining sleeve 168 is provided with a circumferential bevel 172 adjacent the outer periphery. The quasi-cylindrical portion 106 is provided with a circumferential boss 174 having 2 pairs of diametrically opposed internally threaded holes which are equi-circumferentially spaced. Grub screws (not shown) are received in the internally threaded holes to bear against the circumferential bevel 172 to retain the retaining sleeve 168 in position.

It will be appreciated that the inboard bearing 150 is substantially inactive while the blade 29 is rotating. However, during idling of the engine 30, the rotation of the blade 29 is stopped and accordingly, they will be relative movement between the bearing races. Conversely, the outrigger bearing 54 is operational while the blade 29 is spinning. However, during idling, there is little or no relative movement while the blade 29 is stationary.

As shown in FIGS. 4C and 4D, the cylindrical housing portion 106 includes a boss 176 for an adjustment screw (not shown). The adjustment screw strikes against the carriage 23A when the pivot body 28 is in the first operative position. The adjustment screw thereby allows for fine adjustments for the blade orientation in the vertical cut position.

Similarly, as shown in FIGS. 4F and 4G, another boss 178 is provided for a second adjustment screw. This adjustment screw protrudes from the top of the pivot body 28 shown in FIG. 4F and extends through to the other side of the pivot body through the boss 178. The other end of the adjustment screw strikes against a portion of the carriage 23A when the pivot body 28 is in the second operative position. This allows for fine adjustment of the orientation of the sawblade in the horizontal cut position.

The foregoing describes one embodiment of the present disclosure and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the disclosure. For instance, while the description above is applied to the Lucas Mill version of a portable sawmill, the disclosure is applicable to any swing blade portable sawmill with a circular saw. Thus, the present disclosure can be applied to other frame designs.

The invention claimed is:

1. A sawmill including:

an engine or motor having an output shaft exiting therefrom for driving a sawblade, the output shaft having a longitudinal axis;

a support apparatus for supporting the engine or motor, the support apparatus including a support framework, wherein the entire engine or motor is configured to selectively pivot relative to a portion of the support framework, while the portion of the support framework remains stationary, between a first operative position with the longitudinal axis extending at a first angle, and a second operative position with the longitudinal axis extending at a second angle different to the first angle,

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the support apparatus further including a pivot body pivotably mounting the entire engine or motor to said portion of the support framework, the pivot body including:

5 pivot portions for pivotable mounting of the pivot body about a pivot axis to said portion of the support framework;

a mounting portion to which the engine or motor is secured, the mounting portion surrounding the output shaft; and

a housing portion to accommodate the output shaft exited from the engine or motor, such that the output shaft exited from the engine or motor is enclosed between the pivot body and the engine or motor.

2. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivot body including the pivot portions, the mounting portion and the housing portion is a unitarily formed cast part.

3. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mounting portion is formed as a flange at the edge of the housing portion.

4. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second operative positions extend substantially orthogonal to each other.

5. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second operative positions are the only selectable operative positions.

6. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in the first operative position, the longitudinal axis of the output shaft is arranged substantially horizontally and in the second operative position, the longitudinal axis of the output shaft is arranged substantially vertically to extend below the engine or motor.

7. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivot portions of the pivot body define the pivot axis which extends transversely to the longitudinal axis of the output shaft and is substantially coincident with the longitudinal axis.

8. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the output shaft is in-line coupled to a saw shaft via a clutch and the housing portion surrounds the clutch.

9. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the output shaft is in-line coupled to a saw shaft via a cush-drive and the housing portion surrounds the cush-drive.

10. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the saw shaft and/or the output shaft is supported by a bearing which is surrounded by the housing portion.

11. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivot body is substantially planar in form with the housing portion being centrally disposed to divide the pivot body into a first part and a second part on opposite sides of the housing portion.

12. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivot body includes stiffening beam portions on the first part and the second part of the pivot body.

13. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stiffening beam portions include at least one stiffening beam substantially aligned with the pivot axis of the pivot body.

14. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivot body includes a battery mounting or receptacle for mounting a battery on the other side of the pivot axis to the engine or motor.

15. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sawmill is a portable sawmill of the type which can be transported to a remote location with the support framework being assembled over the top of a felled log in situ.

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16. The sawmill as claimed in claim 15, wherein the entire engine or motor is selectively manually pivotable between the first and second operative positions.

17. The sawmill as claimed in claim 16, further including a transfer apparatus for controlling pivoting between the first and second operative positions wherein the transfer apparatus dampens the movement from at least the second operative position to the first operative position and is arranged to provide lift assistance throughout the movement from the first operative position to the second operative position.

18. The sawmill as claimed in claim 17, wherein the transfer device is connected between said portion of the support framework and the pivot body.

19. The sawmill as claimed in claim 17, wherein the transfer device is in the form of a gas strut or a linear actuator arranged to provide substantially constant dampening from the second operative position to the first operative position and lift assistance throughout the movement from the first operative position to the second operative position.

20. The sawmill as claimed in claim 17, wherein the transfer device includes a dampener to provide substantially constant dampening from the second operative position to the first operative position and a mechanical strut to provide lift assistance throughout the movement from the first operative position to the second operative position.

21. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mounting portion and the housing portion of the pivot body extend circumferentially completely around the output shaft.

22. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivot body is directly and fixably attached to the engine or motor, and wherein the output shaft extends axially from the engine or motor through the mounting portion of the pivot body and into the housing portion of the pivot body.

23. A sawmill, comprising:

an engine or motor having an output shaft exiting therefrom for driving a sawblade, the output shaft having a longitudinal axis;

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a support apparatus for supporting the engine or motor, the support apparatus including a support framework, the engine or motor being selectively pivotable relative to a portion of the support framework between a first operative position with the longitudinal axis extending at a first angle, and a second operative position with the longitudinal axis extending at a second angle different to the first angle,

the support apparatus further including a pivot body to pivotably mount the engine or motor to said portion of the support framework, the pivot body including:

pivot portions for pivotable mounting of the pivot body about a pivot axis to said portion of the support framework;

a housing portion having a mouth to receive the output shaft of the engine or motor, wherein the housing portion includes a bell-shaped portion and a quasi-cylindrical portion, wherein the quasi-cylindrical portion has a girth that is narrower than a girth of the bell-shaped portion; and

a peripheral mounting portion at the mouth of the housing portion for mounting of the engine or motor such that the exited output shaft is enclosed between the pivot body and the engine or motor.

24. The sawmill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the engine or motor has a housing and the output shaft extends axially from the housing of the engine or motor through the mounting portion of the pivot body and into the housing portion of the pivot body.

25. The sawmill as claimed in claim 24, wherein the engine or motor includes a crankshaft disposed in the housing, and wherein the output shaft extends from the crankshaft and the housing of the engine or motor.

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